Foreign Broadcast Information Service 50 ANNIVERSARY 1941 - 1991

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS 50th Anniversary Note

To Our Consumers:

This year the Foreign Broadcast Information Service observes its 50th anniversary.

The service, first called the Foreign Broadcast Monitoring Service, was established in 1941 prior to the U.S. entry into World War II. At the time, a number of U.S. Government officials were concerned about the content of foreign radio broadcasts—a relatively new means of conveying information and propaganda across borders. On their advice, President Franklin D. Roosevelt in late February 1941 allotted money from his emergency fund to institute the recording, translating, transcribing, and analyzing of selected foreign broadcasts for the U.S. Government. During World War II the service demonstrated that monitoring was a fast, economical, and reliable way to follow overseas developments.

Today the Foreign Broadcast Information Service provides its consumers throughout the federal government, according to their diverse official interests, with information from a broad range of foreign public media. FBIS information also is available to readers outside of the government, through the National Technical Information Service. Objectivity, accuracy, and timeliness are our production watchwords.

We members of the current staff of FBIS extend our thanks to consumers for their interest in FBIS products. To past staffers we extend our thanks for helping the service reach this anniversary year. At the same time, we pledge our continued commitment to providing a useful information service.

R. W. Manners
Director
Foreign Broadcast Information Service

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FBIS-NES-91-038 *26 February 1991*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on War, Effect on Palestinian Issue *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
PLF Leader Ready To Participate in Battle *[Baghdad Radio]* 3
PLO Committee Members Meet 'Aziz in Moscow *[Algiers VOP]* 3
PLO's Al-Surani To Meet With Egyptian Officials *[AL-WAFD 21 Feb]* 3
Reportage on Faruq Qaddumi Visit to Indonesia *[cross-reference]* 3

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Mubarak, Commanders Discuss Gulf War Events *[MENA]* 4
University Demonstrations Continue; City Calm 4
Protesters Kept Off Streets *[AFP]* 4
Campus Called 'Battleground' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 4
Paper Says Saddam Trying To Escape, Seek Asylum *[MENA]* 4

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Iraqi Forces Arrest 7,000 Kuwaiti Citizens *[London KUNA]* 6
Iraqis Reportedly Burning Kuwaiti Houses *[Riyadh Radio]* 6
Iraqi Forces Withdraw From Kuwait City *[London KUNA]* 6
Information Minister on Iraqi Withdrawal Order *[London KUNA]* 6
Amir Decrees Martial Law Effective 26 Feb *[Radio Kuwait]* 6
Police, Immigration Officials Called To Report *[Riyadh TV]* 7
Radio Carries Dispatch From 'Inside Kuwait' 7
Citizens Urged To Respect 'Residents' *[London KUNA]* 7
'Appeal No 4' Advises on Situation *[Radio Kuwait]* 7
Resistance Movement Thanks King Fahd, Bush *[SPA]* 8
Ambassador to UK Thanks Troops for Fighting *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 8

Saudi Arabia

Joint Forces Commander Gives Operations Briefing *[SPA]* 9
UK Commander Describes Signs of Iraqi Withdrawal *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 9
French Neutralize Division, Take 3,000 Prisoners *[Paris Radio]* 10
Eastern Region Scud Attack Kills 12, Injures 50 *[Riyadh TV]* 10
'House by House' Battle Begun in Kuwait City *[Paris Radio]* 10
Allied Helicopters Land in Kuwaiti Cities *[London KUNA]* 10
'Official Source' Reacts to Iraqi Statements *[Riyadh TV]* 11
King Addresses Council of Ministers Session *[SPA]* 11
Paper Urges Harsh Punishment of Iraqi Regime *[Riyadh Radio]* 12
Paper Urges 'Severing' Head of 'Serpent Saddam' *[Riyadh Radio]* 12
Press Highlights 'Brilliant' Ground Offensive *[SPA]* 12

Yemen

Presidential Council Condemns U.S. Actions *[Aden Radio]* 13

IRAQ

Saddam Speaks on Withdrawal From Kuwait *[Baghdad Radio]* 14
Ba'th Party National Command Statement *[Baghdad Radio]* 16
Official Spokesman Says 'Withdrawal Order' Given *[Baghdad Radio]* 16
Army To Complete Withdrawal 'Today' *[Baghdad Radio]* 17
Missile Strikes at Saudi Arabia, Israel Reported *[Baghdad Radio]* 17
Armed Forces Issue Communique No. 63 *[Baghdad Radio]* 17
Missile Strike Against Dhahran *[Baghdad Radio]* 18
IRNA Reports 'Fear, Anxiety' in Baghdad *[IRNA]* 18
Radio Comments After Withdrawal Order Issued 18
Hails Returning Soldiers *[Baghdad Radio]* 18
165,000 U.S. Casualties Claimed *[Baghdad Radio]* 19
Army Hailed as 'Victorious' *[Baghdad Radio]* 19
Palestinian Cause in Forefront *[Baghdad Radio]* 19
'Conspirators, Traitors' Threatened *[Baghdad Radio]* 20
Soldiers Perform 'Miracles' *[Baghdad Radio]* 20
Talk Praises Iraqi Army, Saddam *[Baghdad Radio]* 20
Aggression Targets Iraq, Civilization *[Baghdad Radio]* 20
'Agents' Warned of 'Black' Fate *[Baghdad Radio]* 21
Tariq 'Aziz Returns From Amman 24 Feb *[AFP]* 21
'Arafat Cables Saddam Husayn on Battle *[Baghdad Radio]* 21
Minister Urges 'Jihad' Against 'Infidels' *[Baghdad Radio]* 22
Clerics Urge Striking at West *[Baghdad Radio]* 22
Further Radio Commentary on Course of Battle 23
'Enemy' Claims Refuted *[Baghdad Radio]* 23
'Declare War Against America' *[Baghdad Radio]* 24
Iraqi Soldiers Praised *[Baghdad Radio]* 24
Allies Said Fleeing in Defeat *[Baghdad Radio]* 25
'Fabrications' on Ground War Condemned *[Baghdad Radio]* 25
Government Officials Reported Fleeing to Turkey
[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 22 Feb] 25
Opposition Seeking 'New Political System' *[Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI 22 Feb]* 26
Baghdad-Trained Terrorists Said Targeting Syria *[London AL-ZAHRAH 17 Feb]* 26

ISRAEL

Government Praises U.S. Stand on Iraqi Withdrawal *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 28
Minister Discusses Saddam Speech, U.S. Response *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Ben-Aharon Assesses Iraqi Moves, Soviet Role *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 29
'Trying Times' Ahead on Political Negotiations *[Jerusalem TV]* 29
Peres: Saddam Will Make 'a Few More Concessions' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Government 'Formally' Asks U.S. for $1 Billion Aid *[THE JERUSALEM POST 25 Feb]* 30
Palestinians View Ground War, U.S. Policy *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 31
Netherlands Patriots Deployed Near Jerusalem *[Hilversum International]* 31
Netherlands To Fund Missiles *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31

JORDAN

Muslims 'Humiliated' by Withdrawal Announcement *[IRNA]* 32
House Condemns Coalition Ground Offensive *[Amman Radio]* 32
Al-Masri Cuts European Visit, Returns to Amman *[Amman Radio]* 32
Parliament Bloc Says To Attack Western Interests *[JORDAN TIMES 25 Feb]* 32
Editorial Urges Holy War Against 'True Enemies' *[AL-RA'Y 25 Feb]* 33
Democratic Party Opens Centers for Volunteers *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 25 Feb]* 33
Groups Form 'Legion for Jihad' To Support Iraq *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 25 Feb]* 34

LEBANON

Commentary Warns Americans on Staying in Region *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 35

SOUTH ASIA

India

Shekar Criticizes Security Council Inaction *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Legislature Urges Global Support for Soviet Plan *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Commentary Assails U.S. Rejection of Plan *[Delhi International]* 37

Iran

Kuwaiti Envoy Demands Reparations From Iraq *[IRNA]* 37
Egyptian Foreign Minister on Restoration of Ties *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Foreign Ministry Denies Reports *[IRNA]* 38
Further on Non-Aligned Session in Tehran 38
Velayati, Others on Peace Plan *[IRNA]* 38
Iraq Not Ready To Meet Mission *[AFP]* 38
Velayati, Gandhi Discuss War *[Tehran Radio]* 39
Velayati Assesses Meeting *[Tehran TV]* 39
India Offers To Host 'Urgent' Meeting *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Gandhi Meets With President *[Tehran Radio]* 40
President Deplores Escalation of Gulf War *[Tehran Radio]* 40
Yazdi States 'Alien Forces' Must Leave Gulf *[Tehran TV]* 41
Another 60 War Refugees Arrive in Bakhtaran *[IRNA]* 41
Delegation To Study Iraqi Refugee Exodus *[IRNA]* 41
Thick Smoke Covers Ilam, Khuzestan Provinces *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Newspapers Criticize U.S.-Led Ground Offensive *[IRNA]* 41
U.S. 'Deviance' From UN Resolutions Assailed *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Iraq To Release 400 More POW's *[Tehran Radio]* 43

Pakistan

Nationals Stage Pro-Kuwait Demonstration *[AFP]* 43
Police Break Up Afghan Student Demonstration *[AFP]* 43
Further on Visit of Saudi State Minister 43
Meets With President *[SPA]* 43
Concludes Visit, Departs *[SPA]* 43
Commentary Appreciates Free Saudi Oil Supply *[Islamabad Radio]* 44
Iranian Commerce Minister Meets With Counterpart *[Islamabad Radio]* 44
Bhutto's Alliance Boycotts Assembly Session *[Islamabad Radio]* 44

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on War, Effect on Palestinian Issue

NC2502213391 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1735 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-'Ammar, by Widad 'Alam-al-Din; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Alam-al-Din] Good evening Abu-'Ammar.

['Arafat] Good evening.

['Alam-al-Din] The ground battle is in its second day. Military reports from the Gulf, though scant, say that the Iraqi response to the allied forces began today. What are your impressions?

['Arafat] No, it did not begin today. In practical terms, the battle began on Thursday. It is well known that the battle begins when explorations [istitla'at] with firepower begin. In any case, the battle gathered momentum yesterday. They made attempts in the al-Khafji and the [Iraqi] 3rd Army Corps area. In the 3rd Army Corps area, they were able to realize some progress against Iraq's forward positions. Very fierce battles raged through the night on the 3rd Army Corps front. At 0900, the situation was completely contained and the allied forces were expelled from this sector after sustaining heavy losses. This was announced.

So far, the situation is very solid on the front. We must take into consideration the fact that we cannot judge how the battle is going until after three to seven days have passed, because the bulk of the Iraqi forces have not clashed with the American alliance forces. The American and allied forces admitted as much. They said the bulk of the Iraqi military force has not been thrown into battle. The positions were the same as before the start of operations.

['Alam-al-Din] Especially because the allied forces have a news blackout.

['Arafat] Yes, a news blackout. Regrettably, there are lies. These states, which should respect themselves, are not supposed to tell lies. But they benefited from the Vietnam War. In that war, accurate media reports affected the morale of the American people. Now, by controlling the media and disseminating fabricated reports, they are trying to misinform the American and European public. The American media complain about this blackout. The French and the European media also complain. Moreover, there are contradictions. Today, a number of Western reporters were invited to see what had happened along the operational theater at the front.

['Alam-al-Din] Abu-'Ammar, as the United States rejected the Soviet plan and launched the ground offensive with its allies without giving diplomacy sufficient time to remove some of the pending obstacles, questions have been raised about the seriousness of the efforts to halt the war. To put it plainly, was the date of the ground offensive set when Dick Cheney and Colin Powell returned to the United States after visiting Saudi Arabia?

['Arafat] Sister Widad, to be accurate, the United States made the war decision on 6 August, as President Bush acknowledged in one of his speeches in the United States. All subsequent developments were inevitable. The military offensive was not launched then only to give time for the arrival of forces, vehicles, equipment, ammunition, ships, and aircraft in order to perfect their military plan—or so they think. As Salinger, a reliable American writer, said in his book that all this was clear from the beginning of the crisis. Hence, we can understand why the U.S. President and coalition leaders persistently rejected all international, Arab, and Palestinian initiatives to reach a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, although there were serious attempts. They rejected the Soviet, French, and European attempts. They rejected the attempts of the Arab states advocating an Arab solution, including the Maghreb and Palestinian attempts, the latest of which was a Palestinian-Soviet effort on the basis of which the Soviet initiative evolved. Iraq accepted this Soviet initiative, and it was believed that Bush would respond to it. What is in question is not Kuwait, the Gulf, the al-Sabah family, or any one leader. What is required is to control the oil and to strike at Iraq and its force, which represents the Arab force. This is in order to subjugate the region so that they can draw a new Sykes-Picot map, a new Yalta map, in the region in which a Greater Israel and its map would have a major share in the next phase and new order.

['Alam-al-Din] Of course, the failure of the Soviet plan endangers the region because this means that only one superpower is left in the international arena, which is the United States.

['Arafat] I want to tell you something. They will return to the plan because the six- or seven-day battle they are talking about is laughable to those with even the simplest military expertise. They know that in Beirut, we and our Lebanese brothers, few as we were, faced eight and a half Israeli divisions equipped with the most sophisticated U.S. weapons, which are now being used—the concussion bomb, bomb [repeats], gas bomb, vacuum bomb, cluster bomb, concussion bomb [all bomb types in English]—all these bombs were used against us in Beirut. However, we held out for three months. By God Almighty, if I were in Kuwait with two brigades I would hold out for 60 days. You see?

The Iraqi Army will remain for months and years at least. The facts are not as they wish them to be. I heard from European officials.... [changes thought] I swear to you, Sister Widad, and God is my witness, that I am telling the truth and I have the minutes of the meetings. While I was trying to reach a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, I met with prominent officials in Europe. Some of them told me it would be a devastating, crushing, swift blow that would not take more than six or

seven hours. Where is this devastating blow? The six hours became six weeks; that is, 40 days.

Therefore, we must not believe them. We do not fall for the media, which are trying to play down their losses for their own American and European public. As for the other battles, as you are aware, we are a nation of martyrs. We do not care. We just say, may God have mercy on the martyr's soul. The martyr's mother expresses elation. That is what the phrase "nation of martyrs" means. God said that you will find them, of all people, more greedy of life. [Koranic verse]

['Alam-al-Din] Now we move on to the Palestinian problem. Will Israel's restraint in not taking a clear role in the Gulf war be the price for a pledge by the allied forces to keep the PLO away from the negotiating table after the war?

['Arafat] First, we must be clear. If Israel, if America thinks that a Palestinian or an Arab can accept the offer of a new Camp David, we say that if we had wanted a Camp David, we would have accepted the first Camp David. We have no Marshal Petains or Quislings among the Palestinian people. Our people will continue their revolution and intifadah, one wave after another. We will continue as long as it takes, until the Palestinian flag is raised over Jerusalem, the capital of the independent Palestinian state. They must understand that the U.S. decision will not be allowed to pass in the region and a new Rome will not be established in the region. If there is a Nero trying to set the Middle East region and the world on fire, we tell them there is a Palestinian Spartacus.

I must say one thing. If they have a victory here or a victory there, it does not mean they won a political victory. Eden and Guy Mollet recorded a small victory over President 'Abd-al-Nasir, who then became the Arab nation's leader.

Therefore, we do not follow what they write in history. We take of history what we want and what we write by our determination and blood. This is a great Arab nation whether they like it or not. This is the will of the Arab nation. This is a great nation. It is now facing a fateful phase whose history will be recorded with our blood. The question is to be or not to be. The Vietnamese people rejected American hegemony. It is true that at the time there were two superpowers, and now the cold war is over. But we are an Arab nation with its own history and culture, and we will not accept foreign intervention and presence in any Arab land. We will not condone aggression against any Arab state by any foreign power regardless of the results and the cost.

It must be understood that this is the stand adopted by every free, honorable Arab.

['Alam-al-Din] Do you believe that the West's anti-Iraq allied forces will remain in the Gulf after the war?

['Arafat] I need make no guesses. Did you forget what they said before the Baghdad Arab summit conference ended on 17 May? In the memorandum—as a matter of fact, the warning—they distributed among the Arab heads of state in Baghdad, they said: We do not tolerate objections to the military naval presence in the Gulf [six preceding words in English]. Senator Kennedy said: We are in the Gulf not for the sake of Kuwait nor any state or ruler. We are there because of three letters—oil [preceding word in English]. You see? The U.S. vice president himself also reiterated it. Moreover, why are the Europeans taking part? This is although some of them, like France, refused for the first 15 days to take part in the bombing of Iraqi territory and the strikes on Iraqi children, women, people, infrastructure, hospitals, schools. Why? Pressure was employed because—they imagine—they want to have a slice of the Gulf pie.

(?I will tell you) a story. When British Prime Minister Major came to the region, he met with Shaykh Jabir. He brought with him some business managers to arrange contracts to rebuild Kuwait. One of the firms he invited was seeking to build a power station. Shaykh Jabir told him: The Kuwaiti power station is intact. Major told him: No, we will hit it. They hit it yesterday. What does this mean? This means they are here to take out the last petro-dollar from these Arab pockets. They are also trying to strike at Arab strength to impose their order in this region. However, a mountain cannot be shaken by the wind.

['Alam-al-Din] How do you view the restoration of relations with the Arab states taking part in the war against Iraq?

['Arafat] The matter is not that easy. It is more dangerous. The map of the region, whether negative or positive, will be redefined. The issue is not the PLO or the Palestinian people. The issue is the Arab nation—to be or not to be. By God, if the Arab nation triumphs, we will triumph, and if the Arab nation is defeated, we will be defeated. God willing, the Arab nation will not be defeated. God supports His soldiers and men.

['Alam-al-Din] A final word, Abu-'Ammar?

['Arafat] I want to tell our kinfolk in the occupied territory: Patience! I know how much they are suffering now as a result of the Gulf crisis and of the immense Israeli pressure. However, at the same time, I am happy that the intifadah waves are mounting and increasing at all levels and through all means. I also tell my Lebanese and Palestinian kinfolk in southern Lebanon and in the occupied territory: Patience! Victory is imminent. We will meet in Jerusalem where we will perform prayers. I also tell the steadfast Arab community in Kuwait—Palestinians, Syrians, Yemenis, as well as the Kuwaitis—who are being pounded by the allied forces: Patience! From God we beseech support. Together we go until victory.

['Alam-al-Din] Thank you.

['Arafat] You are welcome.

PLF Leader Ready To Participate in Battle

NC2602045691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF], has condemned the ground attack launched by the American, Zionist, Atlantic and the nation agents' forces gainst Iraq and its militant Muslim people. In a statement to INA, the PLF secretary general affirmed that the objective of the United States and its allies is to destroy Iraq. He added that the imperialist-Zionist-American-Atlantic aggression is an unjust one aimed at undermining the Arab and Islamic awakening and depriving the Arabs and Muslims of civilization and development.

Abu-al-'Abbas added: American and Atlantic imperialism has completed the scenario of its mean aggression against Iraq by launching the land attack, thus exposing the essential reality of its evil and aggressive objectives and intentions to harm heroic Iraq.

The Palestinian official said that the PLF, which proudly greets the steadfastness of the giant Iraqi forces and the victory they achieved in absorbing and wiping out their failing attack, announces that it stands fully in the Arab trench to defend Arab dignity and pride, deploying its political and military capabilities to participate effectively in the mother of battles.

PLO Committee Members Meet 'Aziz in Moscow

LD2302183791 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Late last night, a meeting was held in Moscow between Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and brother Abu-'Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee. Attending the meeting was brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO executive committee.

During the meeting, urgent Arab and international moves to back the Iraqi stand were discussed, including finding the effective approaches to ensure that the Security Council would play its balanced role in the crisis.

PLO's Al-Surani To Meet With Egyptian Officials

PM2202160991 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 21 Feb 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Attempts at Rapprochement With Egypt"]

[Text] Palestinian sources in Cairo have confirmed that Jamal al-Surani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, will hold talks with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and other Egyptian officials on Egyptian-Palestinian relations. The sources explained that al-Surani will convey to the Egyptian officials the Palestinian viewpoint on the current developments in the Gulf region. The sources referred to the PLO's desire to strengthen its relations with Egypt.

Al-Surani heads the PLO delegation at the Islamic foreign ministers' emergency conference currently meeting in Cairo.

AL-WAFD has learned that al-Surani is trying through his contacts in Cairo to end the present crisis in Egyptian-Palestinian relations due to the two sides' conflicting positions on the Gulf crisis.

Reportage on Faruq Qaddumi Visit to Indonesia

WA2202144791

For Indonesian reportage on the visit to Indonesia by the PLO's Faruq Qaddumi, the head of the PLO Political Department, including reports on talks with Indonesian President Suharto and Foreign Minister Alatas, see the Indonesia section of the 20 February and subsequent issues of the East Asia DAILY REPORT.

Egypt

Mubarak, Commanders Discuss Gulf War Events

NC2502141491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met with senior Army commanders at the Defense Ministry this morning.

The president, who is the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, was briefed on the condition of our forces in the war to liberate Kuwait and the situation there in general.

The meeting, which lasted for two-and-one-half hours, was attended by General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production; Lieutenant General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, chief of staff; Air Force Lieutenant Ahmad Nasir, commander of the Air Force; Major General Muhammad Zahir 'Abd-al-Rahman, commander of the air defense forces; and Major General Ahmad Fadil, commander of the naval forces. The meeting was also attended by the Armed Forces chief of operations and the director of the military intelligence and reconnaissance.

University Demonstrations Continue; City Calm

Protesters Kept Off Streets

NC2502173791 Paris AFP in English 1835 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Feb (AFP)—About 600 students at Cairo University demonstrated Monday to protest the Gulf war but police prevented them from leaving the campus, witnesses said.

As with other demonstrations in recent days, anti-riot forces took up positions outside the university to stop the students from voicing their anger on the streets.

Police also barred unauthorized people from entering the campus, they said.

Students chanted anti-war slogans, slammed the allied offensive against Iraq, criticized Iraq itself, and—for the first time—denounced the Egyptian Government, calling President Husni Mubarak "an American agent."

Egypt committed troops to the anti-Iraqi U.S.-led coalition and they are now taking part in the current ground offensive in Kuwait.

Demonstrators also urged Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to "hit Tel Aviv."

Iraq has launched 39 Scud missiles at Israel since the Gulf war broke out on January 17.

But unlike earlier demonstrations led mostly by Muslim fundamentalists, the protests on Sunday and Monday were of a secular nature.

On Sunday, students burned three effigies: one of U.S. President George Bush, one of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and one that was faceless.

Cairo was meanwhile calm and most Egyptians remained passive in the face of news from the Gulf. [passage omitted]

Campus Called 'Battleground'

NC2502194491 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Report by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo]

[Text] The Cairo University campus became a virtual battleground this afternoon when more than 10,000 protesting students clashed with the security forces who surrounded the university and hurled scores of tear gas canisters at the students. Some students were overcome by fumes and taken to hospitals while others sustained various other injuries.

During their demonstrations, the students burned portraits of the leaders of the coalition states, cheered for the long life of the Iraqi people, and called for the downfall of the American-Israeli scheme to destroy Iraq. The security forces diverted traffic in the area, which was entirely covered with black smoke.

The students tried to leave the university to stage a demonstration this afternoon but clashed with security forces. Many students were wounded and others were arrested. The students were shouting, especially female students who also waved black banners in mourning. When the situation became tense, the security forces stormed the university building at 1815 to quell the demonstration by force. The full dimensions of what took place are not yet known.

Meanwhile, 'Ayn Shams University and several others also witnessed large-scale demonstrations today, during which the demonstrators denounced the stand of the coalition states and called on the Egyptian people to stand in solidarity with their Iraqi brothers who are being subjected to death and annihilation.

Over 150 journalists and another number of intellectuals issued statements today calling for halting the American-Zionist war against Iraq. They also urged the Egyptian media to ensure that the reports they publish are accurate.

Paper Says Saddam Trying To Escape, Seek Asylum

NC2502134991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1327 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA)—The Egyptian weekly newspaper AL-AHRAR reported today that there is no news about Saddam Husayn several hours after the ground battle to liberate Kuwait broke out and that he had left his soldiers and people alone to face the end he had imposed on them through his idiocy.

Citing Eastern and Western diplomats in Baghdad, the paper says that Saddam tried to escape a mere seven hours after the beginning of the ground battle. It adds that he tried to seek asylum in more than one country, including the USSR, Yemen, Jordan, and Iran but all of them refused because they feared revenge from the coalition countries and because these countries were convinced that Saddam has become a burned out factor that must be eliminated.

The paper says that Saddam contacted the Soviet Embassy in Tehran to request political asylum but the embassy refused. In addition, some people warned him of the consequences of seeking asylum in Iran and reminded him of the million martyrs who fell in the Iraq-Iran war.

The paper reports that the officials close to Saddam Husayn were afraid to inform him of the results of the battles immediately after they broke out because they feared his great anger and his despair of ever escaping, which would make him turn against them. They merely told him that some clashes had occurred and that the results were in favor of the security forces [as heard].

Kuwait

Iraqi Forces Arrest 7,000 Kuwaiti Citizens

LD2502192591 London KUNA in Arabic 1843 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Riyadh, 25 Feb (KUNA)—Informed security sources today confirmed that the Iraqi forces have arrested 7,000 Kuwaiti citizens since the commencement of Operation Desert Storm for the liberation of Kuwait. The source told KUNA that the Iraqi authorities arrested a group of citizens in two mosques in residential areas inside Kuwait. The source added that the Kuwaiti authorities, through known channels, have asked citizens to stay indoors and not to venture out until their safety and security can be guaranteed. He pointed out that men from Iraqi intelligence are touring streets in some Kuwaiti towns; they raise Kuwaiti flags in order to encourage Kuwaiti citizens to leave their houses, only to be arrested. The source said that the Iraqi authorities are searching houses for generators in order to confiscate them.

Iraqis Reportedly Burning Kuwaiti Houses

LD2602025991 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0200 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] The Iraqi forces have set fire to around 60 houses in one of the suburbs of Kuwait close to Kuwait City continuing the scorched earth policy pursued by the Iraqi forces in the State of Kuwait. Military officials of the Joint Forces have said that the Iraqi forces continue to burn and destroy Kuwaiti houses, institutions, and installations.

The Iraqi forces have arrested 7,000 Kuwaiti citizens since the commencement of the Desert Storm operation to liberate Kuwait. An informed Kuwaiti security source yesterday said that the Iraqi regime has arrested a number of Kuwaiti citizens in the middle of the night in two residential areas in Kuwait.

Iraqi Forces Withdraw From Kuwait City

LD2602121291 London KUNA in Arabic 1128 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Riyadh, 26 Feb (KUNA)—A senior Kuwaiti military official has said today that the the Iraqi occupation forces have withdrawn from Kuwait city and surrounding areas and that Kuwaiti resistance elements took over control of the police stations in that area today.

The official, who preferred not to be identified, told KUNA that the Kuwaiti resistance is in control of Kuwait city and the surrounding areas today; he added that the allied forces are now proceeding toward Kuwait city to take control of the city and surrounding areas.

The official said that Kuwait citizens who have endured occupation since 2 August have been hoisting Kuwaiti flags and chanting "God is great" ever since the morning, in celebration of the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait city and the surrounding areas.

He noted that resistance elements have taken control of police stations in those areas. The official did not give any further details.

Information Minister on Iraqi Withdrawal Order

LD2602013891 London KUNA in Arabic 0114 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Dhahran, 26 Feb (KUNA)—Commenting on reports about the issuance of orders by the Iraqi leadership to the Iraqi Army to withdraw from Kuwait, Dr. Badr Ya'qub, minister of information and minister of state for national council affairs, said here today: The Iraqi regime cannot be trusted, because it has always resorted to trickery and lying, and Kuwait will accept nothing but complete and unconditional withdrawal, and the return of legitimacy in accordance with all 12 UN Security Council resolutions and the initiative of U.S. President George Bush. Kuwait cannot accept anything less than what the U.S. President has decided in his conditions and what has been stipulated by all the resolutions of the Security Council on the unjust Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait. Iraq must also announce its full acceptance of the 12 Security Council resolutions.

Amir Decrees Martial Law Effective 26 Feb

LD2602151291 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Decree No. 14 for 1991 regarding the declaration of martial law:

God almighty has completed his benefaction on Kuwait and its people. Its territory has been liberated, praise be to God, from the tyrannical Iraqi invasion. The aggressors have departed after sowing corruption throughout the country. They destroyed, set on fire, and killed and ruined a civilization of mankind. God has crowned with victory the jihad of the people of Kuwait who sacrificed and remained patient and steadfast, and the efforts of fraternal and friendly states, which stood inside and outside the United Nations by Kuwait and its usurped right.

What has arrived is a moment of greater jihad. All efforts must go to build what has been destroyed and put right what was ruined. We must secure life on the land of Kuwait from the remnants of aggression and its consequences and protect life, honor, and assets from anything that threatens them or renews the danger to them. Until

all this is realized the official and competent organs need legal jurisdiction available to them to permit them to confront any danger and deal with any malfunction and heal any rift and accomplish any action in a quick, efficient, and decisive manner. In this way life can be restored on the land of Kuwait for its sons and residents. We want what it always used to be—source of pride for us—a life of security, safety, and stability.

In order to enable the competent and official establishments and organs to fully discharge their duties under these difficult and complicated circumstances, taking into account the Constitution and the amiri decrees issued on 3 July 1986 and on 13 August 1990, on the temporary seat of the Government of Kuwait, and taking into account procedural provisions relating to government work, we have decreed the following:

Article One: Martial law will be declared throughout the State of Kuwait effective Tuesday, 26 February 1991, for three months.

Article Two: Sa'd al-Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah is appointed general martial governor. He will be authorized to take whatever measures are required as stipulated in Article Three, Law No. 22 for 1967.

Article Three: The general martial governor will coordinate between the Kuwaiti Armed Forces Command and the commanders of the military forces in the countries cooperating with the State of Kuwait in liberating the territory of the homeland.

Article Four: The prime minister and ministers, each within his jurisdiction, will implement this decree. The decree will come into force from the date of its issuance. It will be published in the official gazette.

Signed: Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait; and Prime Minister Sa'ad al-'Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah

Dated: 26 February 1991.

Police, Immigration Officials Called To Report

LD2502222691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2118 GMT 25 Feb 91

[From the "Kuwait Message"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. An announcement from the Ministry of Interior of the State of Kuwait: All personnel of the police force who are outside the homeland and who were previously registered with the security committees, and also employees working in organs related to the general administration of immigration affairs, are called on to report to these committees immediately. Due to the importance of this request, they may do so either personally or by telephone.

Radio Carries Dispatch From 'Inside Kuwait'

Citizens Urged To Respect 'Residents'

LD2602115591 London KUNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Dhahran, 26 Feb (KUNA)—Kuwait Radio has appealed to all Kuwaitis inside Kuwait not to molest the residents [term usually used by Gulf media for Palestinians and other non-Kuwaiti Arabs] and to offer shelter to any member of the Iraqi Forces wishing to surrender and take them to security centers.

A message broadcast by Kuwait radio from inside Kuwait and received here today asked social solidarity committees there to prepare themselves to receive food aid which will be sent to the people of liberated Kuwait within the next few hours. The message also urged the citizens not to carry arms and to stay in their homes.

Addressing the people of Kuwait, the message said: "The residents who colluded with the Iraqi occupation have left with the fleeing Iraqi remnants; the innocent residents who are with you now are brothers and guests and we hope that you will not harass them. Let us avoid any sedition."

'Appeal No 4' Advises on Situation

LD2602135691 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1250 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Here is dispatch No. 4 that we received a short while ago from inside Kuwait:

In the name of God, the merciful, and compassionate. Appeal No. 4 from inside Kuwait:

Our kinsmen the people of Kuwait, honorable residents: We wish to reiterate our thanks and most sincere gratitude for you adherence to all the instructions. We wish, however, to draw your attention to some points in addition to our earlier instructions.

Shots are still being heard in some streets. We warn you about this as it conflicts with the interests of the country at present. Furthermore, the firing of shots may disrupt some of the activities of the international forces.

The international forces may be carrying out close reconnaissance operations with very low-flying aircraft. Hence, it is requested that you refrain from firing, abide by the instructions issued to you, and stay in your homes.

2. [number as heard] The electricity and water boards are now meeting here to draw up steps for the implementation of emergency plans. The same applies to the petroleum services.

The brothers congratulate you and inform you that they will do their utmost to ensure that these services reach you as soon as possible.

3. We express our utmost thanks and appreciation to our brother residents, particularly the Palestinians, for staying in their homes and for complying with our instructions. We also call on them to urge others to abide by these instructions.

We pray to God Almighty to keep Kuwait an oasis of love, good, and peace for all.

Furthermore, we have the following announcement for the brothers working in the electricity and water sectors:

Technical workers in the department for the operation and maintenance of the water installations, networks, and chemical functions are asked to present themselves at the waterworks control, operation, and maintenance center at al-Shuwaykh, opposite the Civil Service Department, at 1600 today, to coordinate the operation of the water installations and to meet with the chief waterworks engineer.

Here is an announcement from the officials responsible for the oil and petroleum sector:

To the operational and maintenance workers of the oil and petroleum sector, particularly those employed by the production and export department, the Doha fuel pump at al-Ahmadi, and the petroleum and machines department: Be ready to report to work as soon as possible at the Administration Center of the Kuwait Oil Company, the house of Abu-'Abdallah at al-Ahmadi. We will announce the time of the meeting later.

Please continue to listen to Radio Kuwait.

God is great, God is great, God is great. Shame and disgrace on the vanquished usurpers.

We also wish to address a message to our brothers, the members and youth of the Kuwaiti resistance: We have just received a telephone call from General Horner, chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force, expressing his thanks and apreciation for the work performed by the youth of the Kuwaiti resistance inside Kuwait, the valuable information they provided as soon as they obtained it, and the effect this information has had on their air operations. He hopes that the mission will be completed as soon as possible and sends his congratulations to the people and to everyone on the liberation and victory.

With thanks. God's mercy and peace be upon you.
Abu-Fahd, Kuwait

Resistance Movement Thanks King Fahd, Bush

LD2602132591 Riyadh SPA in English 1213 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 26, SPA—Morabitoon of Kuwait (Kuwaiti resistants) have expressed deep-seated thanks and gratification to custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz for his noble Arab and Islamic stance beside the just cause of Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti Peoples Resistance Movement inside Kuwait has sent a message of appreciation to King Fahd via the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) for the constant backing of the Saudi leadership and people for the Kuwaiti cause and people since the start of the crisis on Aug 2, 1991. They also cited with gratification the hospitality and excellent accommodation provided by the Kingdom for the Kuwaiti people.

The Kuwaiti Mujahidin renewed their full support to the legal government under the leadership of Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

The Kuwaiti movement also sent a similar message of support to the U.S. President, George Bush.

Ambassador to UK Thanks Troops for Fighting

LD2402161591 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1533 GMT 24 Feb 91

[By Sally Weale]

[Text] The Kuwaiti ambassador in London tonight delivered a stirring message to his fellow countrymen suffering under Saddam Husayn's brutal regime, saying: "Your misery is coming to an end."

Mr. Ghazi al-Rayyis said he was "very happy" with the progress of the land battle, and was hopeful that his country would be liberated swiftly. We know you are fighting for a good cause. People there are suffering, waiting for you to help them. May God save you all and comfort you."

According to the ambassador, the allied forces were now on the brink of taking control of Kuwait city and though some Iraqi soldiers were taking hostages, others were surrendering in droves. "Iraqi soldiers are surrendering, throwing down their arms and giving up the fight. There are some pockets of resistance here and there, but it will be over in a few hours I hope," he said.

Dr. al-Rayyis went on: "We are very happy to hear of the success of the allied troops. We expected that the Iraqis would surrender because they don't believe in the war and they are not going to support Saddam. This will be, I hope, a short war. It is going in the direction the allied troops wanted to go in and in a few days we hope that everything will be over in Kuwait City with minimum loss of life. We pray to God to save all those who are in Kuwait and fighting for its liberation."

Dr. al-Rayyis and other Kuwaitis in exile have been following the progress of the fighting, as far as the news blackout has allowed, minute by miniute as the allies inch forward in their campaign.

Of his countrymen, who have been living under Iraqi rule with no water and electricity and suffering dire food shortages, he said: "They have been living in misery and now they see the light coming. Although we are far away, we hope to be there with the army to join them to see the first steps of liberation."

Saudi Arabia

Joint Forces Commander Gives Operations Briefing

LD2502204891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1855 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Riyadh, 25 Feb (SPA)—His Royal Highness Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces and operations theater, has announced that the military operations against the Iraqi aggressor are progressing well and are exceeding all expectations with a minimum of casualties. He said that the number of prisoners of the aggressor forces has reached 20,000.

In a statement at the opening of a news conference in Riyadh this evening, his royal highness expressed pride in the successful military operations and outstanding courage of the men of the joint forces. He said that the full advance to liberate Kuwait did not begin until after the exhaustion of all ways and means to encourage the tyrant of Iraq to return to his senses and regain his reason.

Brothers, I meet you today while feeling happy, as well as being proud of our men from the joint forces, their successful military achievements so far, their rare and outstanding bravery, efficiency and capability. I hope, God willing, that the mission will be achieved in the shortest time and with a minimum of losses, not only for our forces. I also hope that the forces will carry out the order issued to them to avoid inflicting losses among Iraqi soldiers as much as possible. If any resistance is shown, or if shooting emanates from any position, however, that would expose the forces to danger. In this case the orders issued to them are clear: "The position should be destroyed totally."

I state this while stressing that orders to launch the full-scale thrust were issued to the forces only after all ways and means were exhausted. We pursued all avenues, and we used all means available in the hope that the tyrant of Iraq would return to his senses and regain his reason. Let him be content with the destruction caused to Kuwait, the pillage and plunder, the destitution of a people who used to be safe, only to become terrorized. We call on him to save the Army and people of Iraq from a fierce battle that we were forced to undertake in order to restore right and justice at whatever price, no matter how high the sacrifice.

We feel no hatred nor harbor any ill-feelings toward the people of Iraq. We have been forced to fight, however. Let the salvation of Kuwait from an unjust and oppressive tyrant be a way for the liberation of Iraq's tyrannized and oppressed Army and people, who have succumbed to their fate due to this tyranny.

Despite all this, I am aware that among Iraq's soldiers there are those who have been brainwashed by the tyrant, whose minds have been exposed to lies, and who have then embarked on committing crimes and rape.

For this and similar crimes, I caution and warn that whoever commits an act of subversion, killing, or offense of any kind will be tried as a war criminal, and all international law and norms will be applied on him. We will not leave him without severe punishment to teach him and others a lesson.

Regarding the number of POW's, it has reached about 20,000.

I would like to reassure you that the fighting continues in a better way than was expected, and with losses which were never thought possible. The number of martyrs so far is eight, and the number of those injured is 20. This is protection from Almighty God.

I hope you will appreciate that the security of the forces and the operations dictate us to withhold information from you at the present time so that the enemy will be denied the opportunity of utilizing it, gaining by this information what he failed to gain by fighting. I promise you, however, that this period will not be long, God willing.

Before I conclude my speech I would like to address thanks and appreciation to the 33 fraternal and friendly states that joined us in the valiant fight for all they offered and continue to offer to underpin our stand and to support our cause. I would also like to address greetings of gratitude to every mother whose son is standing in the trench of right, every wife whose husband is fighting to firmly establish justice, and to every child whose father is struggling in support of the downtrodden.

A special salute to them, and, God willing, the battle will end soon, and the hardened fighters will return safe and victorious.

God willing, from victory to victory, peace and God's mercy be upon you.

UK Commander Describes Signs of Iraqi Withdrawal

LD2602101191 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0948 GMT 26 Feb 91

[David Mason report from Riyadh]

[Text] The Desert Rats took 600 prisoners and lost only one man when they clashed with up to 80 enemy tanks in their first battle of the war, British commander Lieutenant General Sir Peter de la Billiere said today. There were now signs that Iraqi forces had begun a withdrawal, he said at a news briefing in Riyadh, but he refused to elaborate.

The 1st Armoured Division is speeding north through Iraq towards the elite Republican Guard and is expected to over-run a number of enemy positions in the course of today. Sir Peter said the division was well ahead of schedule, as were other coalition forces, and would be playing a full part in the destruction of the Republican Guard. The elite force, the cream of Saddam Husayn's

armed forces, is dug in north-east of Kuwait in a heavily fortified area where it has trained for years.

"The British have got a major task ahead of them, indeed, they are well stuck into it at the present time, and that's to close with the enemy armour and to destroy it," said Sir Peter.

British forces, led by the 7th Armoured Brigade, overran the first Iraqi positions before dusk yesterday, and they fought on through a rainy moonless night, making full use of their nightfighting capability. "In a series of manoeuvres involving both brigades and the artillery group, at least two companies of enemy tanks, two artillery batteries and an important communications site have been over-run," said Sir Peter. Men of the Royal Signals captured the first 50 of at least 600 prisoners, who included an Iraqi brigade commander.

British losses were one dead and six wounded.

The Iraqi unit is understood to have been a mechanised brigade. Sir Peter said the army unit probably had about 30-40 tanks in each company after losses in weeks of allied air strikes.

The Desert Rats are on the move again after last night's action. "The divisional armoured recce regiment is now in the lead and further enemy positons are expected to fall into our hands during the course of today," Sir Peter said. "There are signs that the Iraqis are withdrawing, but that's outside the divisional area of operation," he said. "The division hasn't seen anything of it, at all, because they've been advancing so damn fast that even an Iraqi withdrawing couldn't beat them." The Desert Rats began their race to the north on Sunday afternoon [24 February] when they broke through an Iraqi minefield three hours ahead of schedule. American troops opened the breach and the division poured through, suffering only one minor casualty. It is understood to have met little or no resistance until last night's battle.

"The coalition forces as a whole have been singularly successful and are well ahead of the planned target times. I think our allies, particularly the Arab and American forces, have made a tremendous contribution at this point in time. They have my personal admiration," Sir Peter said.

Bad weather forced coalition aircraft to cancel some sorties in support of ground forces, but he said aircrews were taking considerable risks to go ahead with missions despite the weather.

Sir Peter was asked whether Saddam Husayn would be wise to surrender now, but, he said: "It would be quite improper for me as a soldier to comment on it. My job is to get on and fight the war, and that's what we are doing."

French Neutralize Division, Take 3,000 Prisoners

LD2502151991 Paris Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] The French forces that have penetrated into Iraqi territory have neutralized an entire enemy division and have reached their objective 36 hours after the launching of their attack. General Michel Roquejoffre, commander of the Daguet operation, announced this, pointing out that the Daguet division has taken 3,000 prisoners.

Eastern Region Scud Attack Kills 12, Injures 50

LD2502200791 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1949 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] A spokesman of the Command of the Joint Forces and Operations Theater has announced that at 2040 this evening, Monday, the Iraqi aggressor launched a Scud missile at the eastern region, where it exploded and landed in a residential area inhabited by some foreigners. This caused the death of 12 persons and injuries to more than 50 others, in addition to some material damage.

'House by House' Battle Begun in Kuwait City

LD2502143791 Paris Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Excerpts] If we are to believe one of Paris television's special correspondents in Saudi Arabia, who collected several reports, U.S. paratroopers and soldiers have entered Kuwait City, and the battle has begun in the capital of the emirate, house by house. French forces and British forces have already met up at several points along the front. [passage omitted]

French troops have penetrated about 160 km inside Iraqi territory in the direction of Kuwait. The Daguet division, backed up by U.S. units, is responsible, as you know, for taking Baghdad's troops in the emirate from the rear. Their advance is being hampered by the large number of Iraqi prisoners, almost 2,000 of whom have been taken by the French since the beginning of the land offensive. Iraq denies the capture of these tens of thousands of soldiers. A mine-clearing company of the 17th RGP [Parachute Engineer Regiment] of Montauban will leave for the Gulf tomorrow.

Allied Helicopters Land in Kuwaiti Cities

LD2602114191 London KUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Dhahran, 26 Feb (KUNA)—The allied forces have carried out helicopter landing operations in populated Kuwaiti cities.

This was announced by Kuwait radio in a dispatch from inside liberated Kuwait. It called on Kuwaiti citizens to remain inside their homes, not to form gatherings, and

not to carry arms, pointing out that the allied forces will not be able to distinguish between Kuwaiti citizens and others.

Media delegations entered liberated Kuwait yesterday on a visit organized by the Kuwaiti information center in Dhahran. The delegations were shown the extent of the progress made by the allied forces, and they saw large quantities of damaged Iraqi armor, abandoned trenches, and thousands of Iraqi prisoners.

'Official Source' Reacts to Iraqi Statements

LD2602162891 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1558 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] An official source has made a statement to SPA today in which he said: We have followed the statements and announcements issued yesterday evening and this morning, Tuesday 26 February, by the Iraqi leadership, and we have found nothing in their contents that indicate the implementation of the Iraqi regime of the Security Council's resolutions issued in regard to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, or to the Arab and Islamic resolution issued in this regard.

The source added: According to this clarification the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia finds nothing at all that has been issued by Iraq to satisfy what is required.

King Addresses Council of Ministers Session

LD2502183791 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 25 Feb (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired today's Council of Ministers session, held in Riyadh's al-Yamamah Palace.

After the meeting, His Excellency 'Ali al-Sha'ir, the minister of information, in a statement to SPA said that the king opened today's session with a comprehensive address about the Arab reality in light of the current situation and the sensitive circumstances being witnessed in the region in this critical phase of our history. In this respect, the king pointed to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's position in the past and present toward the fateful issues of the Arab homeland. He also pointed to the continuous efforts made by the Kingdom to solve the differences that emerge between the leaderships of fraternal states, to heal rifts, and to narrow the gap between their leaderships' viewpoints. Such efforts proceed from the premise of the Kingdom's permanent concern to create Arab solidarity that would protect the honor of this homeland, preserve its rights, and guarantee the reaching of just and honorable solutions for all its issues, starting with the Palestinian issue and its legitimate demands, in addition to the continuous assistance that the Kingdom has and is giving to the various fraternal Arab and Islamic states in various spheres and in all fields.

The information minister added: In this regard, the custodian of the two holy mosques reviewed the stances of some leaderships of Arab states whose media had begun to support the bad, back the agent of injustice in his unjust doings, and disregard the real reasons which led to these disasters and the catastrophe being faced by the Arab Gulf region, which began with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's occupation of Kuwait in the worst and ugliest scene witnessed in modern history.

King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz referred to the successive crimes which the ruler of Iraq committed against the Arab nation, mankind, human ethics, and social values, and expressed his great astonishment at those who disregarded the making destitute and the occupation of an independent Arab state, while believing in Islam and enjoying membership of the Arab League and all international organizations; they have also ignored the killing, plunder, pillage and violation of honor suffered by the sons and daughters of Kuwait at the hands of Saddam Husayn and his soldiers. In his comprehensive address to the Council of Ministers, the custodian of the two holy mosques refuted what was said in the speeches and addresses of the leaders of some Arab states who sided with the wrong and deviated from the right path, reaffirming that facts cannot be concealed from the peoples of these states, no matter how their leaders may try to deceive public opinion for purposes which are known by all. [passage omitted]

The custodian of the two holy mosques renewed the gratitude of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to all the fraternal and friendly states that helped the Kingdom in its defense of what is right, of justice, the protection of the homeland, and the fate of double-crossing, betrayal and deceit.

The information minister added: Within the context of the meticulous and constant follow-up of events in terms of the Desert Storm operation to liberate Kuwait, the Council heard a detailed report on the theater of military operations since the beginning of the ground battle at dawn on Sunday—to liberate Kuwait in implementation of the Arab, Islamic, and international resolutions, after all attempts and efforts made to convince the ruler of Iraq to withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait according to the Security Council's resolutions had failed.

Considering the explanation of His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister and inspector general, and the explanations of the military commanders regarding the military achievements on the battlefield up until this afternoon, the council expressed its deep admiration for what has been achieved and the attainment of the initial objectives within a few hours, coupled with its wishes for victory and success in their just missions for the Saudi, fraternal and friendly forces.

The council also expressed its hope that Kuwait will be liberated with the minimum number of casualties and

material losses, be it within the coalition forces supporting the Saudi forces, or within the Iraqi forces, because they are sons of the Arab and the Islamic nations, and we are as anxious for their safety as much as we are about our sons. [passage omitted]

Paper Urges Harsh Punishment of Iraqi Regime

LD2202105391 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Under the headline "No reward for Aggression," the AL-BILAD newspaper writes: "When voices of peace are raised and the search for a way out of the Gulf crisis, in which the military operations have made good progress toward achieving their aims, is under way, it is unimaginable that battles should stop in order to await the results of diplomatic efforts. Thus the military operations for the liberation of Kuwait will intensify, not in (?rejection) of peace but, in reality, in an effort to bring it closer. The infliction of certain defeat on the Iraqi regime at any stage of the fighting is the only thing capable of making this regime, against its will, accept the UN resolutions in full.

If the international community announced and decided, at the beginning of the invasion, that the aggressor must not be rewarded for his aggression—that is, Iraq must not be rewarded for its invasion, looting, and occupation of Kuwait—it would be a serious blunder if any peace initiative were put forward that deviated an inch from the full implementation of the international resolutions issued by the UN Security Council, were incomplete, and did not [words indistinct].

The reasonable and logical thing is for the Iraqi regime to be punished with the same force and harshness with which it occupied Kuwait. The punishment of the Iraqi regime must be an example for [word indistinct] before any new dictatorial regime which attempts to imitate the example of this Iraqi tyrant.

Paper Urges 'Severing' Head of 'Serpent Saddam'

LD2502150191 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0047 GMT 25 Feb 91

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] We will now review the first editons of today's, Monday's, newspapers. [passage omitted] In its lead article AL-RIYAD writes: Now that the respite of peace has passed, the land war has started—which in military terms is the deciding battle in the liberation of Kuwait. How brilliant it is that today coincides with the national day of the independence of Kuwait, the 30th anniversary of the independence of Kuwait. It is even more amazing that the liberation of Kuwait after such a long time, from a brotherly Arab country, with an Arab and international force involving huge losses, was due to the whims and haughtiness of an individual who believed it within his powers to change celestial rotation and [word indistinct] of time, and to build a superpower that would compete with the established political empires.

With all its motives, the war was forced on the Iraqi people. Even raising white flags in the great surrender shows that Iraqi fighters are not sure about the value of the objectives they are fighting for, and that the motives are those of a person who has caught the fever of megalomania, and has left his army and people on the firing line with no humanitarian or patriotic considerations. This will facilitate the mission of the international forces, which have sensed that the Iraqi Army, militarily isolated from its air systems and without supplies, will not be able to resist.

AL-JAZIRAH said: The comprehensive land assault against the aggressor Iraqi forces, pushed by the tyrant of Iraq, Saddam, to occupy the land and homes of brother Kuwaitis, has begun. From the preliminary reports coming in on the sweeping assault, the courageous thrust into the invaders' positions in Kuwait, the destruction of their military armor, and the capture of many positions, I believe that the end of the tyrant of Iraq and the new Hitler has come, and that the page of murder, bloodshed, acts of [word indistinct], treachery, and violation of honor and Arab [word indistinct] will be turned forever.

History will damn this new tyrant, who has seized his country's wealth and snatched enormous funds from his neighbors to build a massive force—not to repel an aggression, to liberate what is held sacred or regain Palestine and Jerusalem, which he falsely claimed was his objective, but as a sword on the necks of the sons of his nation, neighbors, and brothers. He began his vile crime and evil intentions by invading Kuwait, while harboring ill will against the rest of the region's states. [passage omitted]

AL-YAWM stresses that getting rid of the serpent Saddam Husayn will only be achieved by severing his head. This is what the international will must do to the despotic tyrant and his treacherous regime.

Press Highlights 'Brilliant' Ground Offensive

LD2502152391 Riyadh SPA in English 1230 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Press review]

[Text] Riyadh, Feb 25, SPA—Saudi daily papers today highlighted the brilliant start of ground offensive of the Desert Storm operation to liberate the State of Kuwait. The papers said the Iraqi aggressor has been surprised by the offensive launched by the coalition forces and thousands of the Iraqi soldiers surrended during the early hours of ground battle.

AL-YAWM, of al-Dammam, said the great victory realised by the allied forces in the first day of the offensive

has reflected the low morale of the Iraqi troops and indicated that the end of the Iraqi forces would be very soon.

AL-MADINAH, published in Jeddah, said the battle of jihad has begun and the allied forces are now penetrating deep into the enemy's defense zone. The paper said history will never forgive the Arab traitors who supported the Iraqi aggression.

The Jeddah based, 'UKAZ, said Saddam Husayn should endure the responsibility of what has taken place and what will happen in the region because of his aggressive and criminal acts.

AL-BILAD, of Jeddah, branded Saddam Husayn as the most ugliest ruler in the history of Iraq and should face the consequences of his vicious crimes when the liberation operation of Kuwait is over.

Other papers also expressed similar views and smashed the criminal and evil acts of Saddam Husayn and called on the Iraqi people to revolt and get-rid of the tyrant and his group.

Yemen

Presidential Council Condemns U.S. Actions

EA2502171691 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Text] The Presidential Council held an extraordinary meeting early this morning under the chairmanship of brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Council, to consider the situation in the Gulf in light of the ground offensive launched by the United States and its allies against the Iraqi forces in Kuwait and within Iraqi territory and the rejection by the forces of the imperialist-Zionist alliance of all the peaceful initiatives. In accordance with these initiatives, fraternal Iraq has declared that it accepts Security Council Resolution 660 by withdrawing from Kuwaiti territory, thereby solving the crisis peacefully. All this reflects the aggressive conspiratorial motives to destroy the land of fraternal Iraq.

The Presidential Council later convened an extended meeting of a number of members of the Consultative Council to discuss developments affecting the Gulf crisis in its various aspects and dimensions considering the dangerous escalation by the imperialist-Zionist alliance and its ground aggression, which began this morning against the Iraqi forces. This followed the dismissal by the United States and its allies of all the peace efforts made to avoid this destructive war, including the efforts of the Soviet Union undertaken in response to the peace initiative declared by the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council on 15 February, according to which Iraq would adhere to the principle of compliance with Security Council Resolution No. 660 demanding the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, an initiative which enjoyed the support of states and governments desiring peace.

Those participating in the meeting expressed their vigorous condemnation of the position adopted by the states of the alliance on the peace efforts, which had reached their final stages. The participants charged those states with responsibility for adopting this obdurate position, the result of which will be the shedding of more blood and more destruction without justification, particularly as fraternal Iraq has accepted the provisions of Resolution 660. The participants also expressed their extreme regret over the inability of the UN, as represented by the Security Council, to adopt a resolution conducive to arriving at a peaceful solution to this crisis. This situation has arisen from the insistence of the United States and its allies in the Security Council on foiling the peace efforts, thus posing a threat to the principles of international law and of the UN Charter and imposing a hegemony of neo-imperialism by destroying the fraternal land of Iraq.

The participants went on to express their confidence that the Iraqi people and the heroic Iraqi Armed Forces will face up to this barefaced, tyrannical, and barbarous onslaught. They expressed their confidence that the Arab nation and the Muslim peoples will discharge their responsibilities in this crisis and will stand firm against this imperialist-Zionist attack, which is aimed against their potentials, resources, and national achievements in order to extend colonial hegemony over their states. They must support the fraternal land of Iraq and provide it with effective aid in all fields toward halting the aggression and restoring peace to the region.

Saddam Speaks on Withdrawal From Kuwait

NC2602093091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0824 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn on 26 February; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O great people; O stalwart men in the forces of jihad and faith, glorious men of the Mother of Battles; O zealous, faithful, and sincere people in our glorious nations, and among all Muslims and all virtuous people in the world; O glorious Iraqi women: In such circumstances and times, it is difficult to talk about all that should be talked about, and it is difficult to recall all that has to be recalled. Despite this, we have to recall what has to be recalled, and say part—a principal part—of what should be said.

We start by saying that on this day, our valiant Armed Forces will complete their withdrawal from Kuwait. And, on this day, our fight against aggression and the ranks of infidelity, joined in an ugly coalition comprising 30 countries, which officially entered war against us under the leadership of the United States of America—our fight against them would have lasted from the first month of this year, starting with the night of 16-17 January, until this moment in the current month, February; it was an epic duel which lasted for two months, which came to confirm clearly a lesson that God has wanted as a prelude of faith, impregnability, and capability for the faithful, and a prelude to an (?abyss), weakness, and humiliation which God Almighty has wanted for the infidels, the criminals, the traitors, the corrupt, and the deviators.

To be added to this is the military and nonmilitary duel, including the military and the economic blockade, which was imposed on Iraq and which lasted throughout 1990 until today, and until the time God Almighty wishes it to last.

Before that, the duel lasted, in other forms, for years before this time. It was an epic struggle between right and wrong; we have talked about this in detail on previous occasions.

It gave depth to the age of the showdown for the year 1990, and the already elapsed part of the year 1991. Hence, we do not forget, because we will not forget this great struggling spirit, by which men of great faith stormed the fortifications and the weapons of deception and the Croesus' [Kuwaiti rulers] treachery on the honorable day of the call. They did what they did within the context of legitimate deterrence and great principled action.

All that we have gone through or decided within its circumstances, obeying God's will and choosing a position of faith and chivalry is a record of honor, the significance of which will not be missed by the people and nation and the values of Islam and humanity. Their days will continue to be glorious, and their past and future will continue to relate the story of a faithful, jealous, and patient people who believed in the will of God and in the values and stands accepted by the Almighty for the Arab nation in its leading role and for the Islamic nation in the essentials of its true faith and how they should be. These values—which had their effect in all those situations, offered the sacrifices they had offered in the struggle, and symbolized the depth of the faithful character in Iraq—will continue to leave their effects on souls. They will continue to reap their harvest, not only in terms of direct targets represented in the slogans of their age—whether in the conflict between the oppressed poor and the unjust and opportunist rich, or between faith and blasphemy, or between injustice, deception, and treachery on the one hand and fairness, justice, honesty, and loyalty on the other—but also the indirect targets as well. This will shake the opposite ranks and cause them to collapse after everything has become clear. This will also add faith to the faithful now that the minds and eyes have been opened and the hearts are longing for what the principles, values, and stances should long for and belong to.

The stage that preceded the great day of the call on 2 August 1990 had its own standards, including dealing with what is familiar and inherited during the bad times, whether on the level of relations between the ruler and the ruled, or between the leader and the people he leads. The relations between the foreigners among the ranks of infidelity and oppression and among the region's states and the world had their own standards, effects, and privileges that were created by the Arab homeland's circumstances, and which were facilitated by propaganda, which no one could expose more than it has now been exposed. The conflict was exacerbated by the vacuum that was created by the weakness of one of the two poles that used to represent the two opposite lines in the world. After 2 August 1990, however, new concepts and standards were created. This was preceded by a new outlook in all walks of life, in relations among peoples, relations among states, and the relations between the ruler and the ruled, and by standards of faith and positions; patriotism, pan-Arabism, and humanitarianism; jihad, faith, Islam, fear and nonfear; restlessness and tranquillity; manhood and its opposite; struggle, jihad, and sacrifice; and readiness to do good things and their opposite.

When new measures spring forth and the familiar, failed, traitorous, subservient, corrupt [people], and tyrants are rejected, then the opportunity for the cultivation of the pure soil will increase in its scope, and the seeds of this plant will take root deep in the good land, primarily, the land of the Arabs, the land of the revelation and the messages, and the land of prophets. God says: "Like a goodly tree, whose root is firmly fixed, and its branches reach to the heavens. It brings forth its fruit at all times, by the leave of its Lord." [Koranic verse]

Then, everything will become possible on the road of goodness and happiness that is not defiled by the feet of

the invaders nor by their evil will or the corruption of the corrupt among those who have been corrupted, and who spread corruption in the land of the Arabs. Moreover, the forces of plotting and treachery will be defeated for good. Good people and those who are distinguished by their faith and by their faithful, honorable stands of jihad will become the real leaders of the gathering of the faithful everywhere on earth, and the gathering of corruption, falsehood, hypocrisy, and infidelity will be defeated and meet the vilest fate. The earth will be inherited, at God's order, by His righteous slaves. "For the earth is God's, to give as a heritage to such of his servants as he pleaseth; and the end is best for the righteous." [Koranic verse]

When this happens, the near objectives will not only be within reach, available and possible, but also the doors will be open without any hindrance which might prevent the achievement of all the greater, remoter, and more comprehensive objectives, to the Arabs, Muslims, and humanity at large.

Then, also, it will be clear that the harvest does not precede the seeding, and that the threshing floor and the yield are the outcome of a successful seeding and a successful harvest.

The harvest in the mother of battles has succeeded. After we have harvested what we have harvested, the greater harvest and its yield will be in the time to come, and it will be much greater than what we have at present, in spite of what we have at present in terms of the victory, dignity, and glory that was based on the sacrifices of a deep faith which is generous without any hesitation or fear. It is by virtue of this faith that God has bestowed dignity upon the Iraqi mujahidin, and upon all the depth of this course of jihad at the level of the Arab homeland and at the level of all those men whom God has chosen to be given the honor of allegiance, guidance, and honorable position, until He declares that the conflict has stopped, or amends its directions and course and the positions in a manner which would please the faithful and increase their dignity.

O valiant Iraqi men, O glorious Iraqi women. Kuwait is part of your country and was carved from it in the past. Circumstances today have willed that it remain in the state in which it will remain after the withdrawal of our struggling forces from it. It hurts you that this should happen.

We rejoiced on the day of the call when it was decided that Kuwait should be one of the main gates for deterring the plot and for defending all Iraq from the plotters. We say that we will remember Kuwait on the great day of the call, on the days that followed it, and in documents and events, some of which date back 70 years.

The Iraqis will remember and will not forget that on 8 August 1990 Kuwait became part of Iraq legally, constitutionally, and actually. They remember and will not forget that it remained throughout this period from 8 August 1990 until last night, when withdrawal began, and today we will complete withdrawal of our forces, God willing. Today certain circumstances made the Iraqi Army withdraw as a result of the ramifications which we mentioned, including the combined aggression by 30 countries. Their repugnant siege has been led in evil and aggression by the machine and the criminal entity of America and its major allies.

These malicious ranks took the depth and effectiveness of their aggressiveness not only from their aggressive premeditated intentions against Iraq, the Arab nation, and Islam, but also from the position of those who were deceived by the claim of international legitimacy. Everyone will remember that the gates of Constantinople were not opened before the Muslims in the first struggling attempt, and that the international community (?consigned) dear Palestine's freedom and independence to oblivion.

Whatever the suspect parties try, by virtue of the sacrifices and struggle of the Palestinians and Iraqis, Palestine has returned anew to knock at the doors closed on evil.

Palestine returned to knock on those doors to force the tyrants and the traitors to a solution that would place it at the forefront of the issues that have to be resolved; a solution that would bring dignity to its people and provide better chances for better progress.

The issue of poverty and richness, fairness and unfairness, faith and infidelity, treachery and honesty and sincerity, have become titles corresponding to rare events and well-known people and trends that give priority to what is positive over what is negative, to what is sincere over what is treacherous and filthy, and to what is pure and honorable over what is corrupt, base, and lowly. The confidence of the nationalists and the faithful mujahidin and the Muslims has grown bigger than before, and hope grew more and more. Slogans have come out of their stores to occupy strongly the facades of the pan-Arab and human jihad and struggle. Therefore, victory is (?great), now, and in the future, God willing.

Shout for victory, O brothers; shout for your victory and the victory of all honorable people, O Iraqis. You have fought 30 countries, and all the evil and the largest machine of war and destruction in the world that surrounds them. If only one of these countries threatens anyone, this threat will have a swift and direct effect on the dignity, freedom, life, or freedom of this or that country, people, and nation.

The soldiers of faith have triumphed over the soldiers of wrong, O stalwart men. Your God is the one who granted your victory. You triumphed when you rejected, in the name of faith, the will of evil which the evildoers wanted to impose on you to kill the fire of faith in your hearts. You have chosen the path you have chosen, including acceptance of the Soviet initiative, but those evildoers persisted in their path and methods, thinking that they can impose their will on Iraq, as they imagined and hoped. This hope of theirs may remain in their heads,

even after we withdraw from Kuwait. Therefore, we must be cautious, and preparedness to fight must remain at the highest level.

O you valiant men; you have fought the armies of 30 states and the capabilities of an even greater number of states which supplied them with the means of aggression and support. Faith, belief, hope, and determination continue to fill your chests, souls, and hearts. They have even become deeper, stronger, brighter, and more deeply rooted. God is great; God is great; May the lowly be defeated. Victory is sweet with the help of God.

Ba'th Party National Command Statement

NC2502202091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1922 GMT 25 Feb 91

["Text" of statement issued by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command on 25 February; place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Fighting is prescribed for you and ye dislike it. But it is possible that ye dislike a thing which is good for you and that ye love a thing which is bad for you. But God knoweth and ye know not. [Koranic verse]

O good believers and noble men all over the world. The initiative issued by the Iraqi leadership on 15 February exposed the savage imperialist-Zionist-Atlantic aggression and stripped it of the veils of international legitimacy in order to show clearly its criminal aims against Iraq, the Arabs, the Muslims, and all mankind.

With their attack following their rejection of the 15 February initiative and the Soviet peace initiative and with their declaration of an all-out land war, Bush, his satellites Major and Mitterrand, and their minions from the ranks of the mean, despicable Arabs such as Fahd and Husni have reaffirmed their criminal insistence on war, oppression, and aggression against proud Iraq in order to destroy its capabilities and will so as to realize the American imperialist aims to achieve absolute domination over oil, the region, and the entire world, to establish its security system in the region, to impose its hegemony on the Arab states and neighboring Islamic states, and to enable the Zionist entity to build its greater state on the ruins of the Arab rights and the Arab will, dignity, and future.

Now that all the pretexts have collapsed and the dimensions and objectives of the imperialist-Zionist-NATO aggression have become clear, now that the aggression is in full swing with the start of the ground battle, and now that Iraq has continued its legendary steadfastness in the face of brutal and barbaric aggression for the second straight month, the situation requires that Arab regimes promptly announce a decisive stand against the aggressors and enlist all their material and human resources in the battle of the shared Arab fate on the side of steadfast Iraq.

We call on the Arab parties, forces, and masses to revolt against the traitor regimes that are taking part in the aggression. We also call on these parties, forces, and masses to exert greater pressure on the hesitating regimes so that they will make up their minds and side, in deed as well as in word, with Iraq, the vanguard Arab country, and to punish the symbols and representatives of the countries of aggression everywhere. Volunteers should join Iraq in the battle to repel the aggression.

Jihad is today a definite obligation [fard 'ayn] for every Arab and Muslim. Our masses should exhibit a spirit of sacrifice and enter the field of the great duel, the mother of battles, with all their resources. This is the decisive battle for the liberation of Arabs. This battle will decide the future of the Arabs for many decades to come. It will draw the line between a life of dignity, honor, and pride and one of servility, humiliation, and disrepute.

We urge our people throughout the Arab homeland with their political, vocational, and social organizations to assume their sacred jihad duty, inspired by their heritage, values, and glorious history, under the banner of leader Saddam Husayn who is victorious, God willing, so that we may employ all the forces of faith against all their forces of atheism, and all the forces of right against all the forces of falsehood.

Victory is destined for the camp of the faithful forces over which the banner of God is Great waves. Defeat is destined for the camp of atheism, hypocricy, and treason.

We salute faithful mujahid leader Saddam Husayn. We salute the valiant Iraqi soldiers as they chart the epic of victory. Glory to our nation. Greetings to the noble, steadfast, and heroic Iraqi people. Greetings to the rebellious Arab masses and their struggling vanguards from the ocean to the gulf. Glory and immortality to the noble martyrs.

[Signed] The National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party
[Dated] 25 February 1991

Official Spokesman Says 'Withdrawal Order' Given

NC2502225891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2232 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Statement by an official spokesman; read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Our Armed Forces have performed their jihad duty of refusing to comply with the logic of evil, imposition, and aggression. They have been engaged in an epic, valiant battle that will be recorded by history in letters of light. On this basis, and because the leadership affirmed its agreement to withdraw in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution No. 660 through its approval of the Soviet initiative, orders have been issued to our Armed Forces to withdraw in an organized manner to the positions held prior to 1 August 1990.

This is regarded as a practical compliance with Resolution 660. The spokesman emphasized that our Armed Forces, which have proven their ability to fight and stand fast, will confront any attempt to harm them while they are carrying out the withdrawal order. They will fight with their known bravery and capability to make their withdrawal organized and honorable.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that the foreign minister this evening informed the Soviet ambassador of this decision, which constitutes a compliance with the UN Security Council's Resolution 660. The foreign minister asked [the ambassador] to convey a message from leader President Saddam Husayn and the Revolution Command Council to President Gorbachev requesting him to exert efforts at the Security Council to achieve a cease-fire and put an end to the criminal behavior of the United States and its allies and collaborators.

Army To Complete Withdrawal 'Today'

NC2602123091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Statement by military spokesman]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Despite last night's withdrawal declaration and leader President Saddam Husayn's speech this morning, it has been confirmed that the enemy is still interfering with the withdrawal of our forces. The enemy's air forces, despite bad weather on the battlefront, continue to attack our withdrawing units, and the enemy's armored forces are interfering with the withdrawal of our formations. The enemy forces have attacked Infantry Division No. 48 and its headquarters despite the fact that the division is preparing to withdraw and is actually beginning to withdraw.

This cowardly action reveals the base mentality of those cowards who imagine in vain that they can harm the honor of Iraqi military service and the standards of faithful, mujahid manliness after it has become clear to those near and far, and to friend and foe alike, that the aggressor criminals, by this action, will inflame the fire in the breasts. Those who remain in the region will reap the harvest that is compatible with their treacherous, cowardly action. These evil, base actions will not besmirch the reputation and character of our units.

Despite all that is happening, our units will continue their withdrawal. Their withdrawal, which will be organized, honorable, and disciplined, will definitely be completed today, including the hours of the coming night, God willing.

[Dated] 23 February 1991, corresponding to 10 Sha'ban 1411 Hegira.

Missile Strikes at Saudi Arabia, Israel Reported

NC2502082791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0803 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

At a time when our brave and heroic forces [words indistinct], our missile force [words indistinct] blows to the criminal Zionists and their agent Saudi clan. The following missile strikes were carried out yesterday and last night:

1. Yesterday morning, a destructive strike with al-Husayn missiles was directed at the city of Riyadh, the capital of the agent and criminal Saudi clan.
2. At noon yesterday, a destructive strike with al-Husayn missiles was directed at the Khalid military city.
3. Last night, our heroic missile force directed another destructive strike with al-Husayn missiles at the city of Riyadh.
4. [Words indistinct] our heroic missile force directed a destructive blow with the al-Husayn al-Hijarah missiles at the Zionist entity, specifically at the Dimona area, the site of the Zionist nuclear reactor used for military purposes.
5. [Words indistinct] our heroic missile force directed another destructive blow with al-Sijjil Stones missiles at the Dimona reactors in the Negev desert. All the missile launchers returned safely to base, thanks be to God. [words indistinct]

Armed Forces Issue Communique No. 63

NC2502180791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1728 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Communique No. 63 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 Febraury]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. O masses of our citizens and nation: We announced to you in our communique No. 62 issued at noon today that our valiant Armed Forces in the 3d Corps have carried out a comprehensive counterattack against the aggressor forces during which, through the courage and resolve of the men, most of the forces that had infiltrated our defensive positions were destroyed and the rest were forced to withdraw. It has become certain that the aggressors' forces, including Americans, allies, and agents have suffered heavy losses of personnel who were either killed or wounded. In addition, important quantities of the enemy's artillery, tanks, and other weapons were destroyed.

These losses occurred during the enemy's attack attempts with which he began his aggression as well as during the storming oprations that our valiant forces of the heroic 3d Corps carried out last night to regain their positions.

This morning, the enemy American forces as well as their allied Atlantic forces and the forces of the agent

regimes, attacked all operations sectors. Our heroic forces are confronting them with heavy fire and with a display of splendid steadfastness by our courageous men. They have been inflicting losses on them throughout all hours of the day.

Our heroic forces in Faylakah Island are confronting with rare heroism all the aggressors' attempts and are imposing their complete control over every inch of the island.

Let it be clear that the enemies, by lighting the fuse of war and rejecting all peace opportunities, have suffered large numbers of dead and wounded among their forces. These losses are continuing. Our Armed Forces will continue their sacred jihad to defend the nation's honor, its sanctities, and great Iraq and its achievements. It is depending in this heroic jihad on God's assistance and the nation's and people's rallying around our noble objectives.

God supports the persevering mujahidin.

[Signed] Armed Forces General Command
[Dated] 9 Sha'ban 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 25 February 1991

Missile Strike Against Dhahran

NC2502200791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1954 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Statement issued by a military spokesman on 25 February—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: Our heroic missile force continues to pound the dens of the cowardly traitors who have pawned the nation's sanctities, abandoned honor and conscience, and turned Arab young men into shields of flesh behind which the enemies of the Arab world and Islam are stationed.

With God's assistance, a destructive strike with al-Husayn missiles was directed this evening at the Dhahran base, symbol of enslavement to the foreigners and one of the bases from which the aggression is carried out against our land and people.

After carrying out their duty, our missile launchers returned to base safely, God be praised.

God's salutations be with our heroic missile force's command, officers, and troops.

[Dated] 25 February 1991

IRNA Reports 'Fear, Anxiety' in Baghdad

LD2602082491 Tehran IRNA in English 0737 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 26, IRNA—The Iraqi nation throughout the country have been in a state of fear, anxiety and restlessness since Monday morning.

During the period, the Western planes, mostly British according to a military official, attacked all over Baghdad with bomb, rockets and missiles destroying military, economic and residential areas.

On Monday night, there were many fires in the capital city caused by air raids while warning sirens and the sound of explosion of bombs and missiles could be heard throughout the night.

Radio Comments After Withdrawal Order Issued

Hails Returning Soldiers

NC2602092791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0722 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O heroic fighters, the pride and glory of Iraq; O [word indistinct] mujahidin, sons of our great people. You have written a major jihad epic in the chronicles of history. With steadfastness, challenge, and victory, you have (?concluded) your glorious historic stand against the forces of darkness, infidelity, and tyranny. History has registered with shining letters the rare stand in the face of the 30-party treacherous aggression for a full seven months. You have fought the war in all of its pages—the economic, the political, the psychological, and then the tactical and military pages with its broadest and biggest campaigns. In all of those wars, you have emerged with your heads high in the sky, victorious, in the most splendid fashion of victory and glory.

O grandchildren of the immortals; Sons of 'Ali, Hamzah, and al- 'Abbas [relatives and companions of Prophet Muhammad], you have fulfilled your jihad task to refuse to submit to the logic of evil and aggression. You have fought the tyrants of the age, and defeated—with your patience, valiance, heroic acts, and epic, brave steadfastness and fighting—all the Zionist, imperialist, and agent forces, collectively.

Here you are, returning victorious to your positions which you held before 1 August 1990, after you have proved, through [words indistinct] and the epic fighting and steadfastness, never seen in history before, that you are the most able and powerful, and that your word will triumph over the word of your enemies.

O pride of the Arabs and Muslims, the peoples of the Arab and Muslim worlds are proud of your epic and immortal performance. They will continue to live in the spirit of victory and the sweet aroma of glories, which you have recorded in your major historic battle against the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic-reactionary aggression.

You have triumphed over all the chiefs of evil put together. You have triumphed over the forces of darkness and colonialism from 30 countries, including three superpowers. With this victory of yours, you have annulled all the unjust equations and (?solutions), thus earning with merit [words indistinct] for the free people

of the world. You have restored confidence to the souls yearning for victory and glory. Blessed be you, O lions of Mesopotamia; blessed be you, O heroes [word indistinct]. Forge ahead, God is with us; God is with us; God is with us.

165,000 U.S. Casualties Claimed

NC2602081191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0715 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O brother fighters, when you confront 30 states taking part in the aggression, including three big powers, one of which is the state considering itself the biggest power in history—when you do all this, thus challenging, by yourselves, all these brute forces, and when you prove to the whole world the greatness of your army and your people's determination to resist by all means, then you have created a great precedent and a valiant epic heretofore unseen in the history of war. Here you are continuing your heroic jihad, and inflicting on the forces of aggression, led by the forces of criminal Bush, casualties and losses that have stunned these forces and rendered them unable to announce their casualties.

O heroes, you have seen how your missiles pounded the wasp hives in Dhahran today, and how you made the enemy of God and mankind, Bush, [word indistinct] while he was hearing the number of the American victims, whose number exceeded 165,000 killed and wounded, other than the missing, about whose fate their intelligence and news media know nothing. Have you seen O lofty men how you have raised your country's head high when you were prepared to confront the forces of the defeatists face to face, and to teach them lessons in unmatched resolution and courage? Have you seen how our heroic armies have defeated the scoundrels of Bush and the mercenaries of Husni and Fahd and forced them to run away when they saw your fire and strong determination? Pride and glory to you O heroes, and you will emerge victorious.

Army Hailed as 'Victorious'

NC2602080591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0653 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O sons of our brave army, O sons of the soil of this homeland, O sons of Iraqi women who nursed you with the milk of courage and chivalry, you have nipped the plot in the bud and buried the plotter Americans and traitors of the nation such as traitor and despicable Fahd and the lowly Husni. You have stopped the aggressiveness of the Americans and Zionists and those who allied themselves with them. You have halted the tide that sought evil for your people and to kill the spirit seeking to build high edifice and the glory you have accomplished with sweat over more than 20 years.

Their efforts have failed and they have been frustrated because of you, O fighters, and this valiant people rallying around you [word indistinct] with all factors of steadfastness and bravery. O sons of our valiant army, you have (?unmasked) the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist conspiracy, are victorious, and have raised the banner, the banner of the immortal sons of Iraq, the banner of strugglers, who raise the banner of God is great. O sons of Iraq, O sons of leader Saddam Husayn, and sons of all immortal people whose pure blood drenched the land of Arabs, you have triumphed. May you be safe for your people, for your nation, and for all mankind. You ward the evil winds away from all the benevolent. God is great and we will be victorious, God willing.

Palestinian Cause in Forefront

NC2602130391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1040 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O glorious Iraqis, O heroic fighters, applaud for the victory, (?applaud) God is Great, celebrate the praise of God and do this often, for God has gratified you with His clear victory and forsaken the group of atheism and brothers of Satan. You have recorded an immortal epic in the annals of history. You have written a shining page of right and struggle that will continue to inspire generations with all meanings of faith, firmness, and justice. You and history have recorded that great conquest whose good tidings began on the glorious 2 August 1990. The memory of Iraq and Iraqis will continue to retain all meanings of glory and pride the great day of the call and the return of Kuwait, constitutionally and legally, to the lap of the homeland until this date. The memory of Arabs and Muslims will also continue to entertain all hopes and honest and legitimate aspirations, for Iraq has placed the Palestinian cause in the forefront of the world. Iraq made this cause open the international doors that had been closed in its face for approximately a half century. All free men of the world will continue to recall with more patience and faith that Iraq sided with right and broke the stick of obedience that America, imperialism, and Zionism have raised in the peoples' faces.

Iraq's historic and glorious showdown with the U.S. imperialist-Zionist-Atlantic reactionary aggression has created new concepts and defeated once and for all the illusions and horror of the wanton U.S.-Zionist ghost and has opened the doors wide for a free and dignified life. Iraqis have returned adorned with wreaths of victory and accompanied by all forces of goodness, struggle, and the gathering of the faithful, carrying the good tidings of a new birth for Arabs and Muslims from all corners of the world, a new birth for a life of pride and triumph free from the threatening U.S. stick. Iraq crushed America's prestige and arrogance and Bush, Shamir, Major, Mitterrand, Husni, Fahd, and all minion agents have fallen as a result of their daggers of tyranny, treachery, and betrayal. Criminal America will continue to lick its deep wounds and its mud-stained prestige for

a long time. That country and the other 29 countries will continue to be associated in world opinion with the memory of how they failed in confronting Iraq and how they weakened before and yielded to Iraq's might and faith. O promising Iraqi men and glorious women, O lions and heroes, these are good tidings, and we congratulate you on your glory, clear victory, firmness, determination, and epic defense. We congratulate you on your healthy, independent, struggling, and free Iraq. Proceed forward, and God will grant us success.

'Conspirators, Traitors' Threatened

NC2602140791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1032 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Yes, O valiant Iraqi Army, you have fulfilled the pledge and fought against 30 large and small states led by the big power that taught them magic and evil. Your fighting was heroic and legendary in a manner that achieved the victory aspired by any brave soldier who is sincere to his people and homeland. Yes, O valiant Iraqi Army, we are triumphant in this battle, in the confrontation of barbarism and treason, and in our adherence to our principles.

O mujahid leader, we will continue to sing your dear song how sweet victory is with God's help, and to maintain the strong mujahidin spirit to confront the enemies, plots, and treasons. You were, O leader, the guide for this spirit in all our triumphant battles we have waged under your leadership. We will maintain this spirit to take the conspirators and traitors to account. We will pursue them with this spirit in their dirty dens. These are the people who have bartered guidance for error but their traffic is profitless, and they have lost true direction. [Koranic verse].

Yes O mujahid leader, we are triumphant, and the proof is this miraculous steadfastness our people displayed throughout the months of confrontation, and our great army's heroic confrontation against the armies of 30 states.

O mujahid leader, we are confident that with you, we will continue to confront the evil aggressors if they continue with their tyranny. We will not accept less than continuing to hold our heads high with pride and triumph while singing your dear song, how sweet victory is with God's help.

Soldiers Perform 'Miracles'

NC2602060991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0539 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O soldiers of the message, the soldiers of the great leader Saddam Husayn: In your great jihad and honorable battle, you are responding to the call of Arabism. When history records the most glorious and honorable battle waged by the Arabs in this age, it will not find anything more glorious than the miracles you have performed, or anything better than what you have given to the nation in this battle in terms of heroism and principled position. Glory to he who proudly and triumphantly makes the history of his nation and people.

Talk Praises Iraqi Army, Saddam

NC2602070991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0613 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] How wonderful you are O Iraq! How wonderful your leader, soldiers, and great people are! How wonderful you are O Iraq, the cradle of civilization and the site where the conveyance of Prophet Muhammad's message to the world began. How wonderful you are while you are leading the gathering of right and benevolence to confront the forces of aggression and arrogance and to destroy the arrogance of the head of evil in this world on the land of the Arab nation, the nation of messages and glories. How wonderful you and your army are, O Iraq, while making epics befitting you and your people. [Word indistinct] your heroic men, who are led by the best of the Arab men, leader Saddam Husayn, to make the nation's glory and to end the legend of arrogance in the world.

How wonderful you are O Iraq, which, through your pride, you have exposed the lowliness of others, through the courage of your sons the cowardice of your enemies, and through your faith the infidelity of others. How wonderful you are O Iraq, you that exploded the Arab anger and revived the age of awakening that has done away with the ages of inaction, backwardness, and corruption.

Aggression Targets Iraq, Civilization

NC2602072991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0518 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] The struggling and patient Iraqis have proved in word and deed their influential role in the unity of the Arabs and Muslims. They have proved that they are a big force that has deep and firm faith, willpower, and determination to achieve the glorious and human objectives of the Arab and Islamic nations.

Therefore, it was necessary for the United States, which abhors this, and its satellites, to perpetrate aggression against capable Iraq and to concoct plots and intrigues against it and against its faithful sons. The Iraqis believe in God and in human principles. This angers the criminal United States, the enemy of the Arabs and Islam, and the group of infidels loyal to it.

With the passage of all these testimonial days rich with the sacrifice and struggle of the sons of faithful and steadfast Iraq, facts are revealed in an unambiguous way

and as the Iraqis have stated: namely, that the gathering of the evil enemies is in fact targeting Iraq, the bastion of Arabism and faith and the beacon of Islam.

The Iraqis, honorable Arabs, and people with good will in the world realize the dimensions of this treacherous aggression which is targeting Iraq, its civilization, sanctities, and children. Otherwise, why did the enemies think of launching a brutal air raid on a shelter in which Iraqi children, women, and old men were taking refuge, destroying a mosque where the believers were praying to God Almighty to grant victory to Iraq and its brave soldiers and to preserve its struggler and believer leader, demolishing a school in which Iraqi children were learning the ABC's of their knowledge and science, or erasing the treasures of our human civilization and our archaeological landmarks, or killing entire families in their homes.

This is proof of the treachery of the wicked enemies. Greetings to you Iraqis, O believers.

'Agents' Warned of 'Black' Fate

NC2602144691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1344 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers, the evil intentions of the imperialist states and their servants—the traitor rulers—toward the Arab nation are clearer today than ever. This imperialist-reactionary camp, led by the United States of America in cooperation with Britain, France, and agents in the region like Fahd, Husni, and al-Asad, mobilized all its potential and forces to undermine the liberated bastion of the Arab nation—steadfast and struggling Iraq.

Great Iraq has foiled the conspiracy against it and frustrated all the might of oppression; it has trampled the prestige of the United States in the mud by its epic steadfastness and the fighting of its heroic, brave, and devoted sons. The Arab and Islamic masses must shoulder their full responsibilities in toppling all the symbols of treason and agentry which assisted the foreigner in occupying the sanctities of the Arabs and Muslims and participated with him in the aggression against the bastion of struggle and faith, the Iraq of Arabism and Islam.

The Arab nation's battle against its enemies is long and continuous. It will end only when all the territories occupied by the colonialist Zionists are liberated and when Palestine returns to its people, who have been displaced by imperialism and Zionism for 40 years. For these 40 years the international legitimacy war criminal Bush talks about today has been shelved; it has been disregarded by Israel with the encouragement of the United States and Britain.

The glorious Iraqi victory in this showdown opened the way to freedom for the Arab masses. The atheists and debauched will know how Iraq's heroic actions have reached the farthest corner of the Arab homeland, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arab Gulf. The fate of Husni and Fahd and the small agents will be black when the angry Arab masses trample on their rotten heads. The banner of God is Great, which the Iraqis have raised, will, with God's help, continue to wave.

Tariq 'Aziz Returns From Amman 24 Feb

NC2502141891 Paris AFP in English 1359 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Amman, Feb 25 (AFP)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz returned to Baghdad from Moscow at dawn Sunday soon after the start of the allied ground offensive against Iraq, a diplomatic source said here Monday.

During his unannounced stopover in Jordan, from where he returned home by land, Mr. 'Aziz briefed Jordan's King Husayn on his talks with Soviet officials that were aimed at preventing the land war.

The Iraqi minister had announced his country's acceptance of Moscow's plan for an unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, but allied leaders said the proposal carried conditions and was unacceptable.

Mr. 'Aziz travelled to Moscow by way of Tehran as his country has been subjected to a massive allied aerial campaign that began on January 17.

'Arafat Cables Saddam Husayn on Battle

NC2502182591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1711 GMT 25 Feb 91

[All passages within quotations Koranic verses]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, has lauded the heroism and courage of the struggling Army of Iraq and its faithful commander, struggler Saddam Husayn, in confronting the brutal onslaught launched by the United States, its allies, and its treacherous agents against Iraq and its Muslim, faithful, and patient people. The following is the text of the cable that 'Arafat sent to leader President Saddam Husayn:

In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful:

"Remember thy Lord inspired the angels (with the message): I am with you: Give firmness to the believers: I will instill terror into the hearts of the unbelievers: Smite ye above their necks and smite all their fingertips off them." Verily God has spoken the truth.

My brother the Arab knight, President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve you:

While you, your struggling people, and your valiant and heroic army are fighting one of the most honorable battles of the Arabs and the Muslims in defense of Iraq, the Arab and Islamic nations, and the Third World people against the hegemony and dictatorship that the United States wants to impose on the whole world, we pray to God Almighty to grant you His victory.

Following your couragous peace initiative and the Soviet initiative to which we were witness, it has been revealed to everybody that this U.S-Zionist-Atlantic alliance and its allies neither want peace nor international legitimacy, which they have violated and humiliated. Rather, they are after Iraq, the leadership, people, and Army of Iraq and what you have achieved in terms of scientific and technological progress, which constitute the protective shield of the Arab and the Islamic nations, all the Third World people, and all the free and honest people in the world.

During these historic and fateful moments for our Arab nation, I call on God Almighty to grant you victory and firmly plant the feet of this struggling and heroic army—the army of Iraq and the Arab and Islamic nations—on the ground.

Our hearts and people are with you in the same trench in defense of the nation's honor, dignity, future, security, and existence. "Therefore patiently persevere as did (all) apostles of inflexible purpose." Victory is an hour of patience. "And those who strive in Our (cause), We will certainly guide them to Our paths: for verily God is with those who do right."

May God protect you, Iraq, its patient and persevering people, and its struggling and heroic Army. In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. "On that day shall the believers rejoice with the help of God, He helps whom He will, and He is exalted in might, Most Merciful. (It is) the promise of God. Never does God depart from His promise: but most men understand not." Verily God has spoken the truth.

[Signed] Your brother, Yasir 'Arafat

Minister Urges 'Jihad' Against 'Infidels'

NC2502220091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2117 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] 'Abdallah Fadil, awqaf and religious affairs minister, has appealed to Muslims of the world and followers of the chosen prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, to wage a jihad and hit the infidels, hypocrites, and apostates who lined up in the trench of infidelity and unleashed everything in their arsenal against the Muslim, faithful, patient, and mujahid Iraq.

In a statement to an INA correspondent, the minister urged the mujahid and faithful people to rise up, using all of their capabilities and energies, to repulse the malice of the infidels and to fend off the aggression of the infidels against an Islamic country.

'Abdallah Fadil asked the Islamic parties and jihad movements to rise up against the treasonous and agent governments. He urged all Islamic and Arab countries and Islamic jihad societies, organizations, and movements in the Arab and Islamic world to take part in jihad, because today is the day for which they have been waiting.

'Abdallah Fadil added: God willing, we are sure that victory will be the lot of the faithful and their noble gathering which is being led by Saddam Husayn, the leader of mujahidin and the servant of God.

Clerics Urge Striking at West

NC2502205591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Statement issued by "the Iraqi ulema to Islamic parties, movements, leaders in the world;" place and date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O mujahdin brothers who are zealous in defending your creed, your God's holy book, your prophet's tradition, and the heritage of your ancestors, the leaders of the holy conquests and princes of jihad: You are being tested today. The battle has begun and the entire group of infidels has disclosed its intentions and objectives; Muslim Iraq, with its Army, people, cities, and villages, is being subjected to a brutal, unjust, and brazen onslaught. Those who are in charge of this onslaught will honor no norms or laws in their dealings with you. Hate and Zionist pressure have brought them together, and they have become a single treacherous, unjust sword that targets the nation's religion, creed, and its Islam. It wants to obliterate the blood of chivarly that runs in its sons' veins.

It has become correct to say of them that they are gangs of idolatry, infidelity, and treason, because most of them do not believe in a law of revelation, a God-sent religion, or a manifest human goal. They have made the killing of Muslims, the assassination of Muhammad's nation, and the obliteration of every sign of righteouness in it their law.

Proceeding from the premise of sharia responsibility, fealty to our creed, and fidelity to our religion, and out of our hope to preserve our homelands and our zealous desire to safeguard our nation's future, we appeal to you and demand of you the following:

First, strike the pillars of the countries belonging to the infidel U.S.-NATO-Zionist alliance wherever they are and with all available means, in order to make the countries of the alliance sense the unity of the Islamic jihad ranks and their standing by the side of Iraq's muhajid legions in this fateful battle.

Second, call on your governments to facilitate the movement of the droves of volunteer mujahidin who are joining the warfront of faith in Iraq to assist the soldiers of righteousness in confronting the forces of atheism, polytheism, and aggression.

Third, call on and pressure your governments to sever diplomatic, economic, and cultural relations with all countries participating in the treacherous alliance of infidels. This demand should be seen as a sacred religious duty necessitated by the unity of faith and fate between you and your brothers in Iraq. You should continue to work toward this end until this demand is met in accordance with the values of solidarity and cohesion between Muslims.

Fourth, continue the campaigns of denunciation and condemnation against the forces of the treacherous and aggressive alliance. Wherever you may be, use the local and international news agencies and radios to reveal the hidden objectives of the forces of aggression and expose their destructive raids, which are conducted against cities and installations without the least pang of conscience, and their continuous murder of children, women, and old people.

Fifth, call on your governments to denounce and repudiate the UN Security Council resolutions and to declare these resolutions false, null and void, and illegitimate, for these resolutions were passed by a UN Security Council that was in the grip of U.S. hegemony and control. The UN Security Council has become an easy instrument of manipulation in the hands of U.S. circles and interests in the region.

Sixth, in view of the destruction and demolition resulting from the campaigns of brutal and treacherous bombardment of installations, institutions, and vital facilities in faithful and steadfast Iraq, and in order to mitigate the negative effects caused by these brutal and treacherous actions, you are obligated to organize donation campaigns to raise financial and material support, particularly in the form of medical and food supplies, to reinforce the ability of your brothers to stand fast in their confrontation with the forces of atheism, polytheism, and tyranny.

O forces of God, come to our assistance, come to our assistance.

[Signed] Iraq's ulema [clergy]

Further Radio Commentary on Course of Battle

'Enemy' Claims Refuted

NC2502141591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1201 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Excerpts] The overwhelming Iraqi victory in the first large- scale land confrontation between our valiant and heroic troops and the forces of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression has swept aside all the misleading propaganda campaigns and lies disseminated by the U.S., Western, and Zionist media as well as the media of the traitors in Riyadh, Cairo, and Damascus on the course of the military operations after the start of the land aggression against Iraq at dawn on 24 February.

After Iraqi Communique No. 61, which revealed the truth of events in the field with the known objectivity, as well as the communiques issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command, it has become clear that the forces of the alliance of aggression are staggering around in their blood and that they have lost an important number of their personnel, armored vehicles, and tanks as a result of the crushing blows (?dealt) by the troops of the faithful group of the heroic Iraqi forces. Following this (?serious) communique, the U.S. and Atlantic scandals started to be disclosed with a stinking smell. [Words indistinct] Western statements began to be contradictory and to swing [words indistinct] under the crushing Iraqi blows.

The Island of Faylakah, which the aggressors claimed to have brought under control, remains under the control of the Iraqi soldiers of right, and the enemy landing in al-Managhish was annihilated after having failed to establish a foothold. The (?forces) of aggression are as far as they could be from the city of Kuwait, and there are no Iraqi prisoners in the numbers reported by the sources of the alliance of aggression. The casualties suffered by the U.S. and Atlantic troops as well as those by the traitors are high, contrary to what was hinted at and released by the enemy military and political sources. Making an advance against the Iraqi troops are mere dreams that cannot be achieved in reality.

The following facts are quoted from the U.S. and Atlantic military and political officials, the Western media, and the Western public opinion. Regarding allegations on entering the city of Kuwait, REUTER NEWS AGENCY has reported that the City of Kuwait could not be recovered. REUTER has quoted the Television Network (?ABC) as stating in a more accurate report that the city had not been invaded in the first place, contrary to earlier reports by the troops of the alliance of aggression.

For his part, war criminal Francois Mitterrand, president of France, has stresed that if the alliance's troops were present in Kuwait, we would have known about it. (?London) Radio has reported that the British public opinion does not believe the reports propagated by the British media about the morale of the Iraqi troops. Political and military analysts have noted the exposed methods used by certain sources on the course of the military operations at the battlefronts in the wake of the U.S.-Atlantic land aggression. The same analysts asked: What will the leaders of the enemy alliance say about their claims of controlling the island of Faylakah after Iraq has challenged them by saying that the Iraqi troops are still holding on to the island? And what will the aggressors say after the overwhelming victory achieved by the heroic Salah al-Din [Saladin] troops and the heroic Muhammad al-Qasim troops in the 3rd Corp's sector by recapturing all the positions which the aggressors had reached in their unsuccessful engagement at dawn on 24 February.

Any military or political analyst will have to ridicule a military commander who claims to have launched a large-scale battle and captured several thousand personnel from the opposite side only to incur one casualty; namely, a single soldier who suffered slight wounds, as Mitterrand and his military commanders have claimed, or as the Americans claimed that they suffered 12 dead in battle throughout all the battlefronts. A military analyst will have to refute claims by the alliance on repelling an Iraqi armored onslaught with artillery, as the BBC has reported.

The commanders of the U.S-Atlantic-Zionist aggression, to further discredit their reports, warn against the increasing power of the Iraqis and caution against overconfidence in the ability to confront or engage them. The BBC has reported that the commanders of the alliance's troops warned against overconfidence in victory.

White House Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater has stated: We have to be very cautious, for this is the first day of the attack. British Artillery Commander (Ian Juri) said: The resistance will be greater in the coming stages. BBC correspondent (Stephen Baker) has reported that the British artillery is having difficulty in locating its targets. [passage omitted]

The signs of the [words indistinct] victory are looming in the great duel in the mother of battles. The aggressors from the infidels and traitors will fall under the feet of the heroic and valiant soldiers of Iraq.

'Declare War Against America'

NC2502200691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1752 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O sons of our glorious Arab nation; O free and honest people everywhere: These are your immortal days. This is the battle for your pride and (?steadfastness), the battle of honor and dignity. This is the victory that God has promised you and backed with His strength. Under the guidance of the call of God is Great, the Iraqis are creating an epic, and fulfilling their promise and pledge before God, struggler leader Saddam Husayn, and history, which they have sworn to keep bright and immortal.

The Iraqis are leading the faithful gathering and are telling the whole world: We are here. Our option is victory, and our slogan: No retreat. They are telling their nation that this is the great battle, for an army led by Saddam will not be defeated, and a people whose roots go back thousands of years will not be brought to its knees. A nation led by Saddam cannot be humiliated. It will stay, despite the malevolence of people like Bush and Mitterrand and despite the cowardice of people like Fahd and Husni. Such a nation will remain in the forefront to build edifices of glory and to open windows for peace and good for humanity.

If Iraq, with its Army, people, heroes, and free women are now standing in the frontline to fight against the invasion of the nation and for its defense, these immortal days require all Arabs to stand as one man, to rise in defense of their dignity, and to safeguard their present and future. Let the Arab masses take to the streets so that the Arab voice can be heard loudly throughout the great Arab nation. Let the current days unleash the anger and signal the eruption of a volcano and the start of an earthquake throughout the Arab land. Everyone's duty now is to declare war against America, its interests and its presence. Every one of us, each from his own position, must contribute to the battle to liquidate the U.S. and Atlantic presence on our Arab lands. Strike without hesitation, strike without fear at the interests and establishments of the countries of the aggression. Strike without mercy at all the pillars of the regimes of agentry and treason. Let us, through our revolutionary action and anger, cut off the head of the serpent and crush with our feet its tail in Riyadh, Cairo, and Damascus.

It is the time of Arab anger, the time of revolt by all good and honest people, and by all those who refuse humiliation and subjugation. It is a revolution for all those whose blood America is sucking and whom America is depriving of the fruits of their work. Let the criminal Bush pay for his crime. Let the agents in their dens pay for their treason so that they will realize that dependence on foreigners and the [words indistinct] will not protect them from the anger of the masses, who through their support of Iraq were defending themselves.

We, here on the lands of the two rivers, promise you that we will continue to fight and to create a victory that will signal an era of good for the entire nation and for humanity at large. O Arabs: Fight for the sake of liberating your lands and sanctities. Fight for the sake of schoolbooks and medicine. Fight to keep the smiles of our children a bright and joyful sight every morning. Do not let Bush, his allies, and tools rob us of our joy and the laughter of our children, or steal the dreams of the girls of the Arabs and the aspirations of the youths of the Arabs.

We, here in Iraq, have made up our minds to fight, and let your fighting, O Arab masses, open another front in the face of the alliance of evil.

Iraqi Soldiers Praised

NC2502064691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0543 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O glorious Iraqis; O men, women, and children of Ira: Relying on God, your sons, brothers, and fathers are opening a new page in your immortal record. They are starting their harvest of the necks of infidel, corrupt, and impudent aggressors in the epic of the mother of battles. They are waging the battle of honor and heroism for the sake of Iraq and in defense of your present and future. With their proud stand and unique heroism on all the

fronts of steadfastness and honor, they are confirming that they are the faithful sons of their families, their homeland, and their noble and glorious people.

The heroes in the armies of struggle and faith are fighting the scoundrels of Bush, Major, Mitterrand, and their allies to please you and satisfy God Almighty and all believers and honest people everywhere. They are fighting the aggressors in a way that befits the proud and honorable Iraqis. After crushing the enemy's onslaught on their positions, they are pouring all of their anger on the heads of the aggressors, inflicting on them immense losses in lives and equipment. They will continue to beat the heads of the treacherous infidels until these infidels abandon their wicked aims and retreat in disgrace and shame.

Your sons, brothers, and fathers are conducting the confrontation as you know they can do and as you desire. They are writing a glorious chapter in Iraq's new history, a chapter which will continue to radiate with pride and honor for this generation, the generation of the mother of battles and the bearer of the banner of God is great.

It is the most supreme honor for each one of us to have a knight participating in the mother of battles, forging victory and building for Iraq a new glory added to its previous glories. Glory to you, O heroes of Iraq, O soldiers of God.

O pious strugglers, blessed are your struggle and patience. God will grant you victory. He is your best protector and supporter.

Allies Said Fleeing in Defeat

NC2502141091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1307 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Talk] O glorious Iraqis, thus your Army's victorious forces are chasing the failed cohorts and turning them into torn fragments of flesh. The defeated have abandoned their tanks, vehicles, and equipment that have joined in their humiliation, and fled tripping over their own feet while seeking a way to escape the lethal Iraqi fire. The Americans are being defeated, O brothers. Those whom the despicable Fahd involved in this affair are also being defeated. Those whom the lightheaded Husni [Mubarak] sent are being defeated. The English are being defeated and the French are being defeated. The aggressors have begun to taste defeat from a source they had not expected. This is happening after they lied, acted hypocritically, and boasted through their sick mouthpieces. The Salah-al-Din Forces and the Muhammad al-Qasim Forces came at them like death and began to direct at them what God directs at shameless infidels. The shameless infidels are none other than the defeated Americans and the hired agents. Thus, O Iraqis, your Army is proving for the thousandth time that it is the army of difficult missions that it performs with confidence in God's victory. Congratulations on your glorious victory. Forward, forward, with the coming victories, God willing.

'Fabrications' on Ground War Condemned

NC2502192291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1640 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Dear citizens: Our valiant Armed Forces have continued their legendary and heroic fight, teaching the aggressors cruel lessons and inflicting heavy losses on them in human lives and equipment. They have not allowed the aggressors to achieve any of their aggressive objectives. They have exposed all the false news reports the aggressors spread in an attempt to sow disorder and confusion.

When the Iraqi military communiques and statements exposed these false news reports, the aggressors were forced to retract their lies one after another. Instead, they began to talk of a war that could last for weeks or more. One of them, namely John Major, said that our—that is, their—soldiers are in danger. When Schwarzkopf, commander of the aggressive allied troops, was asked about the fate of a force that had come into contact with the valiant Iraqi troops, he declined to answer the question, because he was well aware that it had been exterminated.

In addition, U.S. Marine sources have ridiculed the reports attributed to them claiming the occupation of the island of Faylakah, because this claim was nothing but a lie. These are their games and lies. This is the other face of their impasse which caused them to launch aggression against Iraq and to engage in combat with an army that is very capable in terms of armament, training, experience, and expertise—an army that is fighting on its own soil and in its own area and defending with firm faith its homeland and sanctities, seeking only the help of God and beseeching Him to grant it what He has in store for the patient and faithful.

Just as their lies were soon exposed to our citizens, these lies will sooner or later be exposed to the people in the countries that are parties to the aggression. These people will then realize how many lies, allegations, and fabrications were produced and propagated by the politicians of these countries and their military commanders. The people in these countries will also then realize something even more important for them: that is, the magnitude of the human and material losses inflicted on the aggression troops. God grants victory to the faithful.

Government Officials Reported Fleeing to Turkey

PM2502113691 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 22 Feb 91 p 3

[Unattributed report: "It Is Said"]

[Text] It is said that the senior Iraqi officials who have fled to Turkish territory include a minister of state

(Kurdish) and Dahham 'Abd-al-Rashid, head of the Council of Ministers' financial control department.

Opposition Seeking 'New Political System'

PM2502152491 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic 22 Feb 91 pp 1, 3

["Calmly" column by Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi': "The Soviet Initiative and Saddam's Future"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The question now is: What will be the future political system in Iraq once the smoke of war has cleared?

Most political analysts in Iraqi opposition circles in Iran, Syria, Britain, certain European states, and the United States say that if Saddam Husayn remains in power after the war he will turn into a wounded tiger venting his fury on his people and neighbors. So they all agree that it is essential to save Iraq by getting rid of Saddam Husayn and his regime. However, a small minority believe that stopping the war must be the first aim and that Saddam Husayn should be left to his own people.

The majority of the Iraqi opposition parties signed a pact 27 December in Damascus calling for joint action against Saddam Husayn's regime. A new body of independent Iraqi figures and groups calling itself the Free Iraq Council was also formed in London 19 February by the representatives of different sects, factions, nationalities, and political tendencies in Iraq.

A broad-based conference of the Iraqi opposition — similar to the Lebanese Deputies Conference and the Kuwaiti National Forces conference held in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia—is expected to convene in an Arab Gulf state soon.

Every effort is being made to close ranks and back the establishment of a new constitutional regime in Iraq in order to guarantee the safety and integrity of the Iraqi territories and to encourage international efforts to finance the reconstruction operations in Iraq.

Most opposition factions believe in the need to find an alternative Iraqi leader who will repair the damage that has been done to Iraq's infrastructure by Saddam Husayn's action in dragging the country into this devastating war.

There are understood to be two main concentration centers for the Iraqi opposition, besides the small ones scattered in Europe and the United States. These two centers are, Tehran and Damascus.

There are fears that civil war could break out in Iraq if Iran dispatches armed elements to Iraq following a collapse of the Baghdad regime or the entry of allied forces into Iraqi territory. Iran is believed to have two divisions ready to go into action at any moment. A third division is also being formed. The two divisions are, the al-Tawwabin Division, comprising Iraqi POW's who refused to return to Iraq after the war; and the al-Badr Division, comprising Shiites and Iraqis who fled from, or were expelled by, Iraq to Iran.

So it is clear that intensive efforts are being made in Iraqi opposition circles to formulate a new Iraqi political system to replace the present one, and that Tehran, Damascus, Riyadh, and Cairo are playing a leading role in these efforts.

If Iraq survives the massacre of the ground war, its political regime is likely to remain in power for a short time, aided by its media, which will try to portray it as the victor that confronted the forces of 28 countries and which will say that it only withdrew from Kuwait at the behest of its Soviet friends in order not to give the arch Satan, the United States, the opportunity to destroy the Iraqi Army, which will liberate Jerusalem in better circumstances.

If Saddam Husayn is not surprised by his own aides' pouncing upon him under the tremendous pressure of public resentment against conditions in Iraq, which has suffered 10 years of constant wars, then the Iraqi opposition will be able, in the long term and with outside backing, to attract nationalist and Nasirite elements from the Iraqi Army to their ranks.

One of these two possibilities will decide the fate of Saddam Husayn and his sanguinary regime—that is, if Saddam himself does not preempt these events by ending his life with his own hand after failing to produce any political, or even propaganda, gains from his accursed and crazy adventure of occupying Kuwait.

Baghdad-Trained Terrorists Said Targeting Syria

PM2202104391 London AL-ZAHIRAH in Arabic 17 Feb 91 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Terrorist Squads Trained by Iraqis Prepare for Terrorist Acts in Syria"]

[Text] Jeddah, AL-ZAHIRAH—Reliable sources have confirmed to AL-ZAHIRAH that terrorist groups, using religious slogans as a cover and Baghdad as their terrorist activity headquarters, have recently received intensive training in acts of assassination and ways of planting explosives in public places from Iraqi officers of the intelligence organ specializing in terrorism.

The sources said that members of these groups were given various specific targets in Syria and that they traveled secretly to Jordan, where they were split up into terrorist cells with specific responsibilities under the supervision of Iraqi trainers and with the assistance of pro-Iraqi Jordanian Islamic groups, which will play a part in securing the terrorist squads' entry into Syria and in helping them escape after carrying out their criminal designs. Forged documents have been prepared for them to enable them to enter and later leave Syrian territory.

As we know, Iraq has for years harbored escaped criminals from Syria, convicted and sentenced for various

crimes, and trained them in acts of terrorism from which the Syrian people have suffered greatly in terms of assassinations of prominent scientific and ideological figures and explosions caused by car bombs in public places and bombs planted on means of transport, resulting in hundreds of innocent casualties.

Government Praises U.S. Stand on Iraqi Withdrawal

TA2602051391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0450 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] The position of official Jerusalem is one of satisfaction with the U.S. position rejecting the Iraqi withdrawal announcement. Israeli officials believe that in its present formulation the announcement does not guarantee Israel's well-being. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

Iraq's announcement of its willingness to withdraw from Kuwait and the statements of Soviet representatives at the United Nations closely resemble the Soviet initiative of last week, political sources in Jerusalem said tonight in response to the Iraqi withdrawal declaration. Israel believes that a withdrawal which would leave the Iraqi troops with their weapons and would not include a public announcement by Saddam Husayn about a withdrawal might portray the Iraqi ruler as a winner and endanger Israel in the future. In this respect, Israel is very encouraged by the statement issued by White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater—to the effect that Iraq must accept all 12 UN Security Council resolutions, and Saddam Husayn must publicly announce the withdrawal—which guarantees Israel's well-being. If Iraq accepts these conditions, the Security Council sanctions against Iraq would not be removed upon the withdrawal, and Iraq would be unable to rebuild its lethal arsenal.

Hence, Israel stands by the United States in rejecting the Iraqi declaration.

Minister Discusses Saddam Speech, U.S. Response

TA2602101291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0850 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Telephone interview with Yuval Ne'eman, energy and infrastructure, science and technology minister, by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good day to you, Minister Ne'eman. Like us, you must have listened to the speech of the Iraqi president.

[Ne'eman] Indeed, and it reminded me of a very similar speech by Egypt's Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir at the time. On 2 November 1956, when the front in the Sinai broke down and the Egyptian Army began to flee, al-Nasir announced that it was he who gave the order of withdrawal. Saddam Husayn is doing the same, in fact. In general, 'Abd-al-Nasir was his model: a person who was confronting the superpowers. The difference is that 'Abd-al-Nasir was saved at the time by both the Americans and the Soviets, while today the Soviets are trying to render Saddam Husayn a certain service, but I assume that President Bush, who has so far demonstrated his perseverance, will be able to find a way to pursue the campaign until Saddam Husayn's regime is eliminated, and will not put himself into a tie situation, similar to what had been forced into in the past. We....

[Einstein, interrupting] Minister Ne'eman, what you are saying in fact is that the allied forces should move into Iraq, even reach Baghdad if necessary, in order to end Saddam Husayn's regime.

[Ne'eman] I am saying that it is in the allied forces' interest to practically bring down Saddam Husayn's rule. I am saying this as an observer, from the viewpoint of the objectives they set out for themselves. Otherwise, they will have to keep Kuwait.... [Ne'eman's response is interrupted by a CNN Peter Arnett report on the joyful reaction in Baghdad to Saddam Husayn's speech]

[Einstein] Perhaps they should have waited for a reaction from Washington to Husayn's remarks before jumping for joy there. Let me return to you, Minister Ne'eman.

[Ne'eman] This joyful reaction could have also been an expression of enthusiasm over hearing their leader speak as the defender of Islam and the Arabs as well as the fighter for the poor against the rich, hearing him describe this whole thing as a victory in fact. They are cheering the victory. To return to our discussion, I believe that President Bush is facing a problem similar to that created for us every time in the past when we were not allowed to decide the battle completely. The Americans have a similar problem now, because what Saddam Husayn did was to accept, as it were, to give what was asked of him; the wish was to hear him announce the withdrawal from Kuwait. It had been earlier stated that it was Tariq 'Aziz rather than Husayn who was announcing the withdrawal, while here we clearly hear Saddam's voice. This obviously places the Americans in a less convenient situation, but I assume President Bush will find a way to continue. All the remaining UN Security Council resolutions certainly allow him to continue.

[Einstein] You obviously think this is in our interest, too, and have clearly said the Americans will not stop.

[Ne'eman] It is in our interest that the Iraqi war machine disappear. I think that the American interest is similar. Otherwise, suppose they reach a cease-fire now, suppose they have liberated Kuwait already, they will then have to keep the U.S. Armed Forces in Kuwait continuously, for fear that Saddam Husayn may return. It is clear then that from their viewpoint, too, it is important that the present Iraqi regime be brought down. There are international problems, however. The Soviets have created a problem, and there are also several UN elements who are trying to be neutral, so to speak, so that the Americans will have to find a sophisticated way out.

[Einstein] In conclusion, Minister Ne'eman, I believe you were one of the cabinet ministers who did not really support the government's restraint policy. In retrospect, are you now prepared to justify Israel's decision on restraint and nonreaction?

[Ne'eman] I never elaborated to the media on the pros and cons of this restraint policy or on my position, and therefore I cannot start to explain here. I still believe that

the position I advocated was correct, but I cannot enter details here as this will disclose the entire argument involved.

[Einstein] Do you still believe that Israel should intervene, at this stage too, so as not to lose its deterrance?

[Ne'eman] I previously did not say what I thought, nor will I say what I think now. This is the government's problem. It is the government that has to decide. I make my opinion known in the framework of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs.

Ben-Aharon Assesses Iraqi Moves, Soviet Role

TA2602073891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0610 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Dan Shilon—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good morning, Mr. Ben-Aharon. Is there political sunshine in Jerusalem this morning [following U.S. rejection of the latest Iraqi announcement on withdrawal]?

[Ben-Aharon] Good morning. I would rather say this is an opening of a new and a better chapter than before.

[Shilon] What are you basing your comments on?

[Ben-Aharon] I believe that developments in the Gulf hold many lessons, not only for us—we are a little experienced, unfortunately—but also for the entire world. Namely, the rise of the world to handle a tyrant, whose personality and cruelty were exposed, requires efforts, power, determination, and perseverance. The U.S. President has proven to possess all of these traits, and has been able to lead his country and the entire Gulf coalition toward achievements. We can only hope that the conclusion will be as successful as the beginning.

[Shilon] Have you already spoken to the prime minister this morning?

[Ben-Aharon] The prime minister arrived at the office a few minutes ago, and we have not had a chance to talk.

[Shilon] Is he up to date on developments? Was he briefed during the night?

[Ben-Aharon] Yes. He was briefed both during the night and this morning, before leaving for the office. This is always the case.

[Shilon] May we assume that the reaction you have just voiced also has his seal of approval?

[Ben-Aharon] The opinion I have just expressed could be shared by you, Dan, and everyone else in Israel. We all want to hope that we are on the threshold of better times.

[Shilon] Naturally, but this leads to the following point: To what extent is official Jerusalem, in this case the prime minister and the Prime Minister's Office, concerned about the possibility that the United States will reach a situation of some compromise, of cease-fire, as an inevitable result of pressure applied by the international community?

[Ben-Aharon] Look, let me first suggest that we not give advice to the United States. After all, it is its soldiers, its best boys, who are shedding their blood on the front, so we can only follow developments and hope. If we are asked about anything, then we will naturally put our experience at the Americans' disposal. We do not have much to say, as we are not on the frontline. I would only say we all hope that past experience—the experience we have accumulated since our war of independence—whereby an Arab leader who sees he is about to collapse is trying to preserve the remainder of his military power [sentence as heard]. Outwardly, vis-a-vis the West, he says he is prepared to withdraw, while internally, vis-a-vis the Arab arena, he says: I am holding my ground and continuing to fight. He is even preparing the ground for that imaginary story we heard both in 1967 and 1948 to the effect that he was betrayed, that no country could have faced up to the forces he was facing, and so on and so forth.

[Shilon] Yosi Ben-Aharon, what is the assessment in Jerusalem of the role the USSR is playing in this war?

[Ben-Aharon] Annoying, definitely so. The Soviets are apparently trying to maintain their status as a superpower, as well as the status of sponsor for as large a part of the Arab world as possible through Iraq and Saddam Husayn. We are afraid this may be a sort of beginning of a return to the cold war. Everything naturally depends on the U.S. reaction. So far, the United States has not consented to return to the rules of the game that were prevalent before the last two years' events in East Europe and the USSR. Indeed, the Soviet Union does not have the same power as in the past, and the U.S. message to the USSR is as follows: Conditions are different now. Also, it is we who are on the front. Hence, if Iraq has anything to say, if it is indeed willing to implement the UN Security Council resolutions, let it say this clearly to this council, namely to the United States, and not to convey messages through the USSR, who will then lead the process and benefit from it, and later also try to make gains in Iraq and the entire Arab world.

'Trying Times' Ahead on Political Negotiations

TA2502201591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said tonight it can be assumed that the war is coming to an end and that Israel can expect trying times ahead on political negotiations. Addressing the Likud Knesset faction, the prime minister said that there will be those who will try to take away from us through political means what they did not manage to take by force. The prime minister said he has no doubt that we will be facing strong political pressures, but that we will not flinch and not run away.

Our Knesset correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir reports that, in indirect criticism of the Alignment, Mr. Shamir said that several years ago when we faced similar situations, he shuddered when he saw who might be representing us in international negotiations. Now, however, there is a stable government which knows what it is going to face, he said. The prime minister said that the country is also regulated in the periods between the wars and that after we overcome the war and come out of the negotiations we will be able to breathe and advance toward the future.

Peres: Saddam Will Make 'a Few More Concessions'

TA2202090891

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0752 GMT on 22 February carries an eight-minute live telephone interview with Labor Party chairman Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Arye Golan, who hosts Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu as a fellow interviewer.

Asked whether the Iraqi-Soviet agreement is good news to Israel, Peres says: "Not entirely, but I think it is not yet the final word. I do not see the Americans budging even one inch from their conditions, and I suggest that we all keep our nerves steady. I also think Saddam Husayn will yet make a few more concessions. This gentleman does not have too many alternatives, and the Americans will bring him to his knees for the whole world to see."

To the question of whether Israel can be satisfied with an Iraqi pullout from Kuwait, the Labor Party chairman says it cannot, "because Saddam Husayn must withdraw from something that sounds rather theoretical: from being a danger to the Middle East. The problem is not with a specific location, but with the man's personality. This is a man who has already started three wars—with Iran, Kuwait, and Israel—and if he survives this one, he will continue to tread the same path."

Peres continues: "I also suggest that we not jump for joy about the destruction of Iraq, because it can be undone. After eight years of war with Iran, he rebuilt his arsenal of nonconventional weapons. Therefore, I think guarantees on this matter should be insisted upon. Israel's problem is not whether to jump for joy or be sad; our problem is to see that the truth is told. In my opinion, Israel must demand that this man not be given the option of reacquiring nonconventional weapons and missiles or of again posing a military threat. After all, the issue of Kuwait did not change the situation; rather, it was the aggression against Kuwait that brought the threat to the fore."

Peres goes on to say that Israel should not dwell on past mistakes, "but create a political level that will read the map correctly. If this war ends but the conflict persists, it will stoke the fires of a new war. Israel cannot just prepare for war; it must also think of how to prevent war." He notes that the response to the threat of nonconventional lethal weapons "must consist of a combined military and political answer."

Government 'Formally' Asks U.S. for $1 Billion Aid

TA2502130491 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Feb 91 p 1

[Report by Allison Kaplan in Washington and David Makovsky in Jerusalem]

[Text] The government has formally asked the U.S. for $1 billion in emergency military assistance to cover outlays stemming from the Gulf war, Israel officials confirmed yesterday.

The request, which Ambassador Zalman Shoval submitted to the State Department on Friday, had first been proposed by Defense Minister Moshe Arens, when he met with Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney and Secretary of State James Baker in Washington on February 12.

The request makes it clear that Israel wishes this aid to be included in a 1991 emergency supplemental package for Operation Desert Storm, which will be exempt from the budgetary restrictions affecting the regular 1992 budget, officials said.

Adiministration officials, though they have said publicly that they will "consider" any Israeli request, have privately told Israeli officials and American Jewish leaders that they do not want aid to foreign countries included in the Desert Storm supplement. This reluctance weighed heavily in the Israeli decision to scale down the request from $3b. [billion] for overall economic assistance to $1b. solely for military needs.

However, it is still expected that considerable congressional pressure will be needed to get the administration to include Israel in the supplement, because legally President Bush himself must define Israel's needs as emergency costs.

A letter asking the president to do so is being circulated among members of Congress, in the hope that a large number will support the allocation, sources told THE JERUSALEM POST.

If the administration remains firmly opposed to including the funds, Israel's supporters are considering proposing an additional supplement earmarked for foreign aid, which could also include aid for Egypt and Turkey.

The request for aid closely follows the diplomatic flap that followed Shoval's public criticism of the administration for denying Israel funds to cover military expenditures imposed by the war. This criticism provoked a reprimand from the State Department and a stinging condemnation from the White House.

According to sources in Israel, a letter from Bush to Prime Minister Shamir after the incident said that under normal circumstances, the president would have asked the prime minister to recall his envoy. But recently, dissatisfaction following the incident appears to have lessened, and the administration has made several attempts to calm matters. Last week, for example, Baker released the long-delayed $400 million in housing-loan guarantees. On Saturday evening, Baker made a personal phone call to Shoval to brief him on the military activities in the Gulf. During the conversation, Shoval said, Baker accepted Shoval's public apology, made when he spoke at a meeting of American Jews in Miami last weekend.

Palestinians View Ground War, U.S. Policy

TA2402072891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0656 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Many residents of the territories are unaware that the ground offensive in the Gulf has begun, while those who do know about it are predictably disappointed. Palestinian notables in the territories said that they had hoped that the countries in the coalition would accept the Soviet initiative to enable a peaceful resolution to be reached before the eruption of the ground war. Most of them accused the United States of wanting to destroy Iraq and secure control of the oil reserves in the Persian Gulf, even though its stated goal was the liberation of Kuwait.

Nabulus resident Sa'id Kan'an this morning said that the ground offensive was to be expected, just like the coalition's rejection of the various peace initiatives. The Palestinians are under the impression that the United States wants to attack and destroy Iraq in order to create a new order in the Middle East under U.S. domination. Kan'an asserted that in this new order, Israel would serve as the United States' ally in its expansionist policy. He said that the PLO and the Palestinians would be influenced by the results of the war, but stressed that despite the Palestinian support of Iraq, the PLO had never supported the invasion of Kuwait, but rather the achieving of an Arab solution to the crisis. Kan'an said that in any case, the Palestinians are determined to raise their problem for discussion once the Gulf crisis ends.

Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, a Gaza attorney, said that he regrets the fact that such a situation happened. He stressed that he still hopes the war will end so that peace can be secured in the region. He said that there is no linkage between the developments in the Gulf and the Palestinian problem—just as Israel has asserted—and that although he anticipates problems for the Palestinians in the aftermath of the war, he hopes that a solution will then be achieved within the framework of an international conference. [passage omitted]

Netherlands Patriots Deployed Near Jerusalem

LD2502115891 Hilversum International Service in English 1130 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] A battery of Dutch Patriot antimissile missiles has arrived in Israel. Military spokesmen say they have been deployed in the vicinity of Jerusalem and will be used to defend against Iraqi Scud missile attacks. The Patriots are accompanied by 40 Dutch technicians who will assist the Israelis in case the projectiles have to be put into use.

The Dutch Government had offered the Patriots to Israel a few weeks ago, but the Israeli authorities waited some time before accepting the aid.

Netherlands To Fund Missiles

TA2502174591 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] The Netherlands has agreed to fund the Patriot missiles that are to be launched from the battery it sent to Israel yesterday, our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe has learned. At first it was reported that Israel would pay the Netherlands about $500,000 for each missile used. The battery lent by the Netherlands has eight launchers, and has been deployed in the Jerusalem area.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 25 February adds that "throughout its service in Israel, the Patriot battery will be operated by Netherlands' officers and men. Israeli Air Force personnel will be permanently based at the site to coordinate control and firing procedures."]

Muslims 'Humiliated' by Withdrawal Announcement

LD2602113791 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Amman, 26 Feb (IRNA)—A mood of shock, anger and gloom is prevalant over Jordan after Saddam Husayn early Tuesday announced that he would pull out his troops from Kuwait. "Even God I think is angry," Taha, a Palestinian driver refugee from Kuwait, said pointing to the rainy weather. "I think it is the end of the world." A Jordanian journalist told IRNA here "everybody is crying at home. We just cannot believe it."

The three million Jordanians were ardent supporters of Saddam Husayn and most expected that he would fight to the end. "If the U.S. leaves Saddam Husayn alone, it means there was some kind of a deal beforehand," a Jordanian clerk said. "The Muslims all over the world are humiliated. This is the biggest tragedy for the Muslim world. Saddam Husayn should have gone on fighting," commented in a depressed tone another Jordanian.

A Jordanian advised the IRNA correspondent to postpone his trip to Palestinian refugee camps. The situation is very dangerous, he said. "Nobody knows how they will react," he said.

House Condemns Coalition Ground Offensive

NC2502145791 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] The House of Representatives has expressed its indignation over and condemnation of the ground offensive against Iraq by the troops of aggression, which have deluded themselves into believing that their force will enable them to achieve their overt and covert objectives regarding the destruction of Iraq and its military, economic, cultural, and political accomplishments.

A statement issued at the end of a session held by the House of Representatives yesterday evening to discuss the brutal aggression against Iraq said: This dastardly crime came about to abort all the peace initiatives launched by several Arab, Islamic, and international parties to which Iraq responded with a high sense of responsibility and a positive spirit to spare the region and the world the calamities of war and fulfill international legality.

In its statement, the house hailed the noble Iraqi people for their stance and sacrifices in defense of their national soil and the Arab and Islamic nation's glories. It also paid tribute to the position taken by His Majesty King Husayn, the Hashemite Arab, his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, the valiant Jordanian Armed Forces, and the valiant Iraqi Armed Forces. The House also praised all sectors of the Jordanian people for the honorable and responsible positions they have taken vis-a-vis their Iraqi brothers.

The House of Representatives appealed to all Arab and Islamic peoples to support the heroic Iraqi people, now that the objectives of the aggression have become clear. The representatives of the nation also appealed to honorable people and free men around the world to stand on the side of right and justice which are being vindicated by Iraq with valor and pride.

Al-Masri Cuts European Visit, Returns to Amman

NC2502144891 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri returned to Amman early this morning after cutting short his scheduled visit to a number of European capitals. Al-Masri told the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY that he had cut short his tour in view of the recent developments and the start of the land attack against fraternal Iraq, particularly as the talks he would have held with officials in these countries would have focused mainly on giving momentum to the search for a political solution as well as the Soviet-Iraqi initiative.

He added that the start of the ground attack against Iraq by the U.S. troops and the countries allied with them obstructs such moves.

The foreign minister was scheduled to have met at noon today with the foreign ministers of the European Troika—Luxembourg, Italy, and the Netherlands—to discuss the future of relations between the EC and Jordan in particular and between the EC and Arab countries in general. Following that meeting, al-Masri was scheduled to head for Brussels and Vienna to meet with Jacques Delors, president of the EC Commission, as well as the Belgian and Austrian foreign ministers.

Parliament Bloc Says To Attack Western Interests

JN2502100091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Feb 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra)—The Islamist bloc at the Lower House of Parliament Sunday called on Arab and Islamic countries not taking part in the aggression against Iraq, to sever their diplomatic relations with the coalition states and appealed to Iran to take its position alongside the Iraqi forces in this battle.

In a statement, issued Sunday, the bloc requested Arab and Muslim countries supplying the coaltion forces with petrol or gas, particularly Iran, Algeria and Libya, to stop sending these supplies and to allow volunteers wishing to fight alongside their Iraqi brothers to do so.

The statement also called on those countries to break the embargo imposed on Iraq by the United Nations Security Council saying that any country that continues to adhere to the Security Council's unjust resolutions will be participating in the killing of Iraqi children, women, and elderly.

The bloc further called on all Arabs and Muslims to strike at American and Western interests and those of the countries taking part in the aggression against Iraq, considering such acts as genuine contributions to the holy war against the tyrant forces.

Editorial Urges Holy War Against 'True Enemies'

NC2502181591 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Feb 91 pp 1,13

[Editorial: "Then Let It Be Our Holy War"]

[Text] Since the start of the Gulf crisis, Bush has tried to deceive the world, his allies, and the Americans themselves. This deception reached its peak in the way he dealt with the Soviet proposal and the UN Security Council, which is now launching its aggression on Iraq under the claim of full implementation of its resolutions.

Washington reports that George Bush signed the aggression decision and set the date before Moscow started its move. He kept dealing with the Soviet efforts, while his forces and the forces of the allies prepared for the aggression on the date set. The U.S. President's disgraceful behavior did not deceive the Soviet president, the international community, or the UN Security Council; rather, it deceived the Americans themselves. In this way, Bush stresses to others, not to us, that the United States is a country of murderers and gangs, and that it is the real camp for racism, the basest patterns of behavior, and the hatred harbored by the West against Arabs and Muslims. The United States, its political administration, and its President, should be looked upon with disdain in order to discern all the features of their ugly picture. Of course, a small minority of Americans are ashamed as they stand by us and see the truth about the President Americans chose—who promised them that their country would defend justice, truth, and values. Here they are, the president and his administration, up to their ears in lies and deception.

Now that the ground aggression on Iraq has started, all the good people of this nation must deal with all the exposed facts with clear vision, courage, and profound and complete determination on the confrontation. This aggression was prepared for by public decision. In the United States, Congress unanimously voted for the aggression decision. Public opinion polls stressed that the American people supported it. The legislatures of Britain and France unanimously supported the decision. Moreover, the British and French people voted for the annihilation war the West decided to launch against the Arabs. Thus, the American, British, and French people are our true enemy, and not just their Armed Forces, which are now carrying out what these people have decided. With all due appreciation for all voices in these countries that call for peace and are against war, they are not enough to blind our eyes, brains, and hearts to the extent of the hateful West's desire to humiliate and destroy us, to desecrate our sanctities and holy sites. Those racist murderers launched their war against all of Iraq, all its accomplishments, all its children, women, elderly, mosques, churches, schools, and even its shelters under the claim of aggression against the faithful struggler leader Saddam Husayn. If their hatred of him justifies the war of annihilation against his people, then how could our hatred of Americans, Britons, and French be less when they, through their legislatures and according to public opinion polls, voted to slaughter Iraq and all its people, destroy Iraq and the whole homeland, and impose humiliation on a nation that sought peace but whose endeavors were faced with this barbaric invasion?!

Then let it be our holy war. Then let it be our bitter, true, and all-out jihad against the coalition of the enemies, foremost being the three colonialist countries. Let our revenge come to the level of their hatred. Let our revenge come to the level of their crimes, and our anger to the level of what they have plotted, have sought, and are seeking. They will be defeated. This is God's nation, and the nation of the Arabs and Muslims. This is the nation of the just which will push them back with the costliest and noblest sacrifices. Peace be upon great Iraq—its struggling people, brave Army, and unique and faithful leadership which is now recording the best epics of steadfastness, bravery, and sure victory with God's help.

Democratic Party Opens Centers for Volunteers

NC2502161691 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Feb 91 p 5

[Statement by the Jordanian Democratic People's Party published in the form of an advertisement]

[Text] O brave sons of our people, the comprehensive war against Iraq has started following the U.S. Administration's arrogant and brazen rejection of the Soviet peace proposals. Through its 15 February 1991 initiative and by accepting the amended Soviet plan, steadfast Iraq has succeeded in exposing the colonialist objectives of the United States and its allies, and in discarding the political cover for the war of annihilation and destruction against the Iraqi people and their cultural accomplishments. Thus, Arab and foreign countries no longer have justification not to declare a clear and candid position against the aggression. Moreover, friendly countries, foremost being the Soviet Union and Iran, are called upon to protect their initiative and employ their important positions against this hostile war in order to protect right, justice, and peace in this sensitive region of the world.

The comprehensive war has started, but it will certainly not be a picnic as the enemies want. It will be a protracted and bloody war. No country which insists on its dignity will escape from being targeted and affected. In fact, it is a decisive historic battle in which the people of our Arab and Islamic nation play a principal role to determine its course and outcome. Let us all be brave soldiers in the battle of dignity, right, and honor: the mother of battles.

Our party, the Jordanian Democratic People's Party, announces that it is opening its doors for volunteers to fight against the aggression on the land of Mesopotamia. The party opens all its centers in all areas to receive the volunteers as a commitment on our part to join in this great national and pan-Arab battle. It also calls on all democratic, professional, and youth forces and organizations to open their centers to receive volunteers.

We are all called upon to go on with and to step up the collection of financial, food, and medical support for the Iraqi people in this age's epic of steadfastness. The Jordanian Government, in keeping with its declared official position, is called upon to assume a firm stand against the aggression, and give substance to its position by immediately expelling the ambassador of the United States, which leads the aggression, from the country. It is also called upon to assume its national responsibilities, unhesitatingly calling a comprehensive national mobilization, and rushing to organize collective training camps for the masses of our nation, providing weapons for all those capable of carrying arms. Our country is targeted, therefore the government must enable the people to defend their homeland, freedom, and sovereignty through action and arms.

O brave sons of our people, in expressing your free will against the aggression, let us work for more organization, solidarity, and unity, and for involvement in the fateful battle to defeat the aggression.

O brave sons of our people, in the all-out and protracted war, let us foil the objectives of the aggression forces' media campaign which seek to undermine our morale and confidence in victory. By the will of the people of our Arab and Muslim nation and by the support of the honorable people in the world, we will make the region a graveyard for the covetous invaders.

[Signed] The Jordanian Democratic People's Party.

[Dated] 24 February 1991

Groups Form 'Legion for Jihad' To Support Iraq

NC2502163991 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Feb 91 p 3

[Text] Amman—Functionaries of political, professional, and popular organizations in Jordan held an emergency meeting last night at the Professional Associations Complex chaired by pharmacist Taysir al-Humsi, head of the council of doyens and doyen of pharmacists [as published], to discuss current developments in the Arab world in light of the U.S.-Israeli-Atlantic aggression on Iraq and the Arab nation.

The participants studied ways to support Iraq and strengthen its steadfastness during this crucial stage the Arab nation is experiencing, through the following popular committees formed for this purpose: the Popular Committee in Support of Iraq, the Arab Health Committee for Emergencies, and the Committee of Professional Associations Complex in Support of Iraq's Steadfastness.

During the emergency meeting, the participants announced the establishment of the Arab Islamic Legion for Jihad to fight on the side of the brave Iraqi Army.

The participants called for opening Arab fronts to join in the battle of Arab liberation led by brave Iraq, and for a comprehensive national mobilization in Jordan under the supervision of a higher council for the defense of the homeland to be established for this purpose, which the Jordanian Government and political and popular functionaries would join.

The participants called for popular action through demonstrations, marches, and sit-ins in all areas of the kingdom to express the great anger and denunciation felt for the barbaric imperialist aggression.

Moreover, they called for severing diplomatic relations with the United States, Britain, France, and Arab countries participating in the aggression against Iraq.

The participants also decided to send cables to Arab labor organizations calling for the boycott of all air, land, and sea transportation means owned by the aggressor countries.

The participants formed a special committee to follow up and implement the resolutions adopted at the meeting.

Commentary Warns Americans on Staying in Region

NC2602103291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Political Commentary: "Temporary Versus Permanent Profit"]

[Excerpts] Profits and losses in wars and battles are usually not measured by temporary standards, but rather by their durability. It is the party who manages to continue, take root, and establish a firm presence after winning the war that is the one who deserves to be called victorious and predominant.

The quantities and sophistication of weapons may secure victory for their owner for a specific span of time. [words indistinct] secure permanent presence and dominance. Here is the tremendous Soviet Red Army, which possesses the most modern, sophisticated, and lethal weapons by superpower standards, retiring into a corner in defeat. It can barely tackle the serious problems presently threatening the Soviet Union.

A victory which lacks the essentials for durability soon fades away once the clouds of war clear. No matter how dangerous or lethal the weapon may be, it imposes a burden on the country owning it, unless the people carrying it are guided by a wise, rational, and capable leadership. This can truly apply to the current situation in the Soviet Union where destructive weapons are reduced to junk, recycled in steel factories and become a burden which haunts the Soviet leadership. A state with such sophisticated weapons should be capable of carrying weight in every arena and in each international position. For many reasons, the Soviets in their own home are unable to avert the dangers threatening their small states and republics.

Hence, weapons are not the only factor in the battle in its broader sense. Though weapons can bring about a momentary shift, they cannot decide fates, erase an existence, or waste a religion. Willpower is the decisive factor when it comes to determining the degree to which major changes are accepted or rejected.

America was the strongest in Beirut at the time of the multinational invasion. It was the most capable country who had the last word. However, the moment of the curse and the great tremor occurred. A few TNT charges turned America into the weaker and more vulnerable party. It had to withdraw from our land, after coming to it uninvited, as it has done in the Gulf. The role of destructive and lethal weapons in Beirut was terminated when these weapons encountered resistance by the willpower and its own unusual methods. The victory which America achieved, or tried to achieve in Beirut in 1982 was shortlived—it could not be counted even in months—because those who resisted America did not commit mistakes and were not discouraged. Moreover, they did not use the weapons which America could defeat. [passage omitted]

America, who is now arrogantly committing a blatant aggression in the Gulf, will face the same fate faced by other states in different parts of the world, regardless of the different justifications. An unjust and aggressive war, in every sense of the word, is now underway in the gulf. The logcial and objective motives of the war lost their legitimacy before the annihilation war started. Therefore, this war will now take on new dimensions. America may be able to drive the Iraqi Army out of Kuwait. It may even go further, as insinuated by its officials. What counts, however, is the survival of the American Armies, troops, and marines—and even American positions [mawaqi']—in the region after this stage of the war is over.

If America is now pleased that it is fighting with the weapons and according to the methods it wants, it will certainly get involved in the future in a war with weapons it cannot match and according to a very developed method, different from that used in Beirut. We talk about primitive methods used by everyone whose land is occupied or usurped. They are legal and legitimate methods, even if the rulers ban them.

America will have to expect this war after the war of confrontation, because it has totally ignored Muslim feelings in its arrogance and its defiance of all peace endeavors. It has also hurt feelings and stabbed Arabs and Muslims in the heart when it started to say that it would be the sole authority which governs the entire region and its peoples with its military boots, as one U.S. military official has said. If America really wants to avoid inciting the people and getting involved in a war with them, it will have to leave the region as soon as the Iraqi troops pull out from Kuwait. If the Americans do not do that, we will all remember this well-tested warning. Finally, the light of darkness is false, while the dawn of truth is true.

India

Shekar Criticizes Security Council Inaction

BK2502160991 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] India is making hectic efforts to activate the UN Security Council for bringing an end to the Gulf war. Making a statement in both houses of parliament, the prime minister said the governments of the Security Council members have been approached and their response is awaited. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the immediate task is to bring about a cessation of hostilities on the basis of a total withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait within a time-bound framework. The Security Council, he said, should take up this task without further wasting time.

The prime minister said the Security Council stands paralyzed at present following the rigid position taken by a few members. He regretted that this has made it impossible for the Council to discharge its responsibilities under the UN Charter.

Referring to the outbreak of ground war, the prime minister said its consequences are going to be devastating.

Replying to clarifications sought by members in the Lok Sabha, the prime minister said there are about 107 Indians in Iraq and about 5,000 in Kuwait. They have not heeded the government's advice to move out well in time.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar said though the Indian diplomatic staff had been moved to Tehran from Iraq, they are still looking after our interests in Baghdad.

In the Rajya Sabha, replying to the points made during the discussions on the Gulf situation, the prime minister said the V.P. Singh regime gave a blanket air corridor to a foreign power for the first time in the country's history. He said that he takes full responsibility for the refueling facilities given to the U.S. military aircraft and added that it was stopped after objections from various political parties.

He said India has not compromised on the Palestinian issue, but at the same time will not allow the subjugation of Kuwait.

Legislature Urges Global Support for Soviet Plan

BK2202162991 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Parliament has called for global support for the Gorbachev proposals to end the war in the Gulf. Voicing grave concern over the possibility of a ground battle commencing in the area, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha unanimously urged the multinational forces to desist from launching a land attack. In indentical resolutions adopted following day-long discussions on the crisis, both the houses asked the government to mobilize support for the Gorbachev plan in the Security Council and also work for sustained peace in the region.

The Lok Sabha rejected an opposition-sponsored adjournment motion on the refueling issue. Winding up the debate on the motion, the prime minister urged President Bush of the United States that he must not reject the Gorbachev initiative. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said it will be a grave mistake if the opportunity is missed. Expressing India's total support for the proposal, Mr. Chandra Shekhar pointed out that New Delhi has already taken up at the United Nations several provisions which are parts of the Gorbachev package.

The prime minister firmly stated that the government has not departed from India's nonaligned policy while handling the refueling issue. He denied charges that government has come under pressure from any extraconstitutional authority while taking decisions. Mr. Chandra Shekhar informed members that after the Janata Dal-S government took over, no outside country has been allowed free air corridor. A written guarantee has been obtained from the U.S. Government that its planes do not carry lethal weapons.

Parliament's unanimous resolution expressed distress at the loss of civilian lives in the Gulf war and expressed concern over the possible use of nuclear and chemical weapons. Emphasizing the central role of the UN in bringing about cessation of hostilities, the resolution demanded that the Security Council must constantly review the situation. It stressed the role of the Nonaligned Movement in promoting a peaceful solution and wanted the UN Security Council to convene an international conference to resolve the Arab-Israel conflict, particularly the Palestinian question. Any regional security arrangement, the resolution pointed out, should involve the countries in the region under UN supervision.

The Gulf war, its handling by the government, and the refueling issue dominated the proceedings of the two houses right from the morning. The Rajya Sabha suspsended its question hour and the listed business, and a determined opposition in the Lok Sabha did not allow questions to be taken up to press their adjournment motion.

Discussing the subject in the two houses, members generally felt that the refueling facility should have been reviewed after the war broke out. They demanded that the government should come out with a firm and clear policy on the Gulf after consultations with all political parties. There were acrimonious scenes and heated exchanges as members spoke along party lines. The National Front, left parties, and their allies charged the government with becoming hapless abettor of the U.S. action in the Gulf.

The Congress-I accused the previous V.P. Singh regime of having allowed an air corridor to the U.S. even after the crisis began. Opposing the adjournment motion in

the Lok Sabha, they said it is no more relevant as refueling has already been stopped. There was a demand for more facilities for those who have been evacuated from Iraq and Kuwait. Earlier, moving the motion, Mr. A.K. Ray, Marxist Coordination Committee, called for a leading role to be played by New Delhi in restoring peace in the Gulf.

Commentary Assails U.S. Rejection of Plan

BK2302135191 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Brigadier Rai Singh commentary]

[Text] The long week since President Mikhail Gorbachev announced his eight-point peace plan has been full of high drama and suspense. Iraq's total acceptance of the plan barely 24 hours ago for which the world had been waiting with baited breath came as a great relief. Most countries across the globe have welcomed it. Unfortunately, the somewhat negative American and British reaction which was tantamount to its rejection has thrown a spanner into the works.

As the eight-point plan was not acceptable to the Americans, the Soviet Union after further and intense discussions with the Iraqi foreign minister has come out with a six-point plan with tougher conditions, which, luckily, have also been accepted by Iraq. The revised plan has gone quite a long way to meet the American reservations on the earlier plan. Unfortunately, President Bush has rejected this also, saying that though the revised plan is an improvement, it still falls short of the UN mandate. On his part, President Bush has literally issued an ultimatum to Iraq to begin withdrawing its troops from Kuwait by 1700 hours GMT today. This is a sad damper on the prospects of an early end to the bloody war.

Expectedly, Iraq has denounced the American [words indistinct] on Iraq are antagonistically consumed with each other's hatred and only a Herculean effort will succeed in bringing the two sides to a peaceful settlement. It is, therefore, only natural that all eyes once again (?also focus) on Moscow with a pious hope that President Gorbachev, with his intrinsically consummate diplomatic skill will be able to prevail upon President Bush to adopt an approach of give and take in the larger interest of the world, which will otherwise suffer from the possible adverse economic and other consequences. Simultaneously, the world opinion should also assert itself toward hastening the peace process. It may also not be amiss to suggest that the American insistence that Iraq must comply with the UN Security Council Resolution No. 678 completely and faithfully. Yet, the incessant bombardment and the large-scale destruction of Iraq is certainly is not in consonance with the letter and spirit of the UN resolution, is nothing but a paradox.

Turning to the warfront, the American daylight bombing raids on Baghdad were carried out yesterday after a break of nearly two weeks. The reports indicate that the multinational forces have completed all preparations to launch their land operations; however, so far, only isolated artillery and missile duals have taken place. The Americans occupied an Iraqi observation post on the Kuwaiti side of the Saudi Arabia-Kuwaiti border the other day. This outpost was not an integral part of the strong Iraqi defenses nor was its capture by the multinational forces be reckoned as a tactical victory.

There is a very interesting report that the top American commanders in the Gulf have requested their government that the launching of any major ground operation should be delayed to allow more aerial bombardments for softening the important Iraqi targets, particularly their defenses in Kuwait. The American commanders reluctance in this regard is understandable. This, obviously, is not quite in tune with their oft-repeated professions that they are all ready and waiting for the green signal to launch the ground offensive. This also goes to show that the announced extent of damage caused on the Iraqi troops and their tanks, artillery, and other equipment has not been as much as will facilitate an easier victory for the multinational forces. On the other hand, the morale of the Iraqi troops, who are battle hardened, experienced, and mentally toughened (?adversaries) remains very high. They will definitely put up a very strong and determined resistance to the attacking troops of the multinational forces.

Iran

Kuwaiti Envoy Demands Reparations From Iraq

LD2602102991 Tehran IRNA in English 0954 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA—Kuwaiti Charge d'Affaires to Tehran 'Abd-al-Ayar said here Tuesday that Kuwait would insist in getting war reparations from Iraq. He told IRNA that Kuwait also demanded implementation of all 12 resolutions passed by the U.N. Security Council on the occupation of his country by Iraq. Al-Ayar's comments were the first official reaction to the Tuesday morning message of Iraqi President Saddam Husyan. The Iraqi president in his message to the nation said withdrawal from Kuwait will be completed Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Iraq's U.N. Ambassador Amir al-Anbari said in New York Tuesday that Iraq was only accepting the Security Council Resolution 660, the first of 12 resolutions passed on the Persian Gulf crisis, which calls for Iraq's complete and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. "... All the other resolutions passed after the Resolution 660 were passed simply because the Resolution 660 was not implemented by Iraq. Now we are saying that we are fully committed and we are ready to implement that resolution," al-Anbari said.

Egyptian Foreign Minister on Restoration of Ties

LD2602010291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0015 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] According to an IRNA report, quoting the Yugoslav news agency in Bahrain, the foreign minister of Egypt, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, announced that Cairo and Tehran will soon resume diplomatic ties. Answering reporters' questions on whether or not Iran and Egypt are studying the possibility of resuming diplomatic ties, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said: Contacts between the two governments are in progress, and the outcome will be announced within the next few days. He added: Cairo is very eager to resume diplomatic ties with Tehran because Iran is an important Islamic country.

Foreign Ministry Denies Reports

LD2602081491 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry spokesman here Monday denied reports that Iran was restoring diplomatic relations with Egypt. Asked by IRNA to comment on the Monday statement by Egypt's Foreign Minister Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid on resumption of Tehran-Cairo diplomatic ties, Foreign Ministry spokesman Morteza Sarmadi said that both Tehran and Cairo are planning to reopen their interest sections in the near future. "Therefore, it is crystal clear that the issue of resumption of diplomatic ties is not under consideration," He reiterated.

Following severance of Tehran-Cairo diplomatic ties immediately after establishment of the Islamic Republic, the two countries' interest sections took care of the related affairs but they were closed down in 1987, Sarmadi explained.

Further on Non-Aligned Session in Tehran

Velayati, Others on Peace Plan

LD2502174191 Tehran IRNA in English 1704 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today regretted that the U.N. Security Council "is practically incapable of taking one serious measure," to end the Persian Gulf war, and said the Non-Aligned Movement [NAM] has been "more successful than other world bodies."

He said the civilians in Iraq and Kuwait are being continually bombarded by the U.S.-led forces and that the longer the war continues the broader will be the damage to Muslims resources.

"The situation was well predictable, since expansionist and dominating forces which look for excuses, have seized the opportunity to firm their infiltration foothold in the region," added Velayati.

The Iranian foreign minister was addressing a press conference along with his counterparts from Yugoslavia and Cuba following the meeting of four NAM states in Tehran to discuss a peaceful settlement to the U.S.-Iraq war. The fourth member of the NAM group is India.

According to Velayati, officials of the four states are to visit Baghdad as soon as the Iraqi Government is ready to receive them. In the meantime, he added, the group will continue meetings in Tehran with more representatives from member states of the movement and "despite the complication of the task of mediation, would spare no effort for a peaceful settlement of the current destructive war."

Yugoslavia's Budimar Loncar told reporters that the peace plans presented by the presidents of Iran and the Soviet Union, did not go ahead. "The proposals by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mr. Gorbachev were very well-thought and useful, but unfortunately the ground war started despite those proposals," he said. However, he added that in spite of the situation the group would continue its efforts, and that other groups would be delegated to Luxemburg and Washington.

Cuba's Isidoro Malmierca Peoli was highly critical of the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for directing his efforts "more towards the war-making than towards peace-making." He said the international community should realize that the war must be halted since "both Kuwait and Iraq may be completely destroyed as a result of the war." He termed the belligerency of the United States as "anti-human", adding that by dint of the current war, "Washington will not only ruin both Kuwait and Iraq, but also the entire region."

Iraq Not Ready To Meet Mission

NC2502200391 Paris AFP in English 1935 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Tehran, Feb 25 (AFP)—A fresh attempt by the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to end the Gulf war foundered Monday after their delegates failed even to meet with the Baghdad government.

The four foreign ministers, from Yugoslavia, Cuba, India and Iran, had holed up in Tehran for two days and requested a meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. But Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati admitted at nightfall Monday: "It was decided to postpone the mission to Baghdad after contacts with the Iraqi leadership, which did not seem ready to receive the mission." He did not elaborate.

The NAM, of which Iraq is a member, decided to send the delegation at a meeting in Belgrade on February 11 that gathered 15 member-countries plus the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Their mission was to meet with the Iraqi Government in the hope of securing a withdrawal from Kuwait and open negotiations for a "political solution" to the crisis.

Mr. Velayati was critical of Iraq's failure to "shift position" before the start of the offensive, which he said "could be foreeen." "Many efforts were made to avert what happened," Mr. Velayati said. "But unfortunately, the Iraqis made a miscalculation, thinking that the possibility of war was remote, and our advice and the mediation of others were unable to yield effective results." But he warned that the situation in the region was "explosive and very complex" and that the four NAM ministers were willing to "go to Baghdad as soon as the Iraqi leaders say they are willing" to receive the mission. [passage omitted]

Velayati, Gandhi Discuss War

LD2502195191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Rajiv Gandhi, former Indian prime minister and leader of the Congress Party, is in Tehran at the head of a high-ranking delegation from that party. He met this afternoon with our country's foreign minister, Dr. Velayati, to discuss the latest developments in the Persian Gulf crisis.

During the meeting, Mr. Velayati spoke about the latest developments in the crisis and the results of the four-sided discussions of the special committee appointed by the Belgrade [Nonaligned Movement] meeting. He said: We will do our utmost to see that the Nonaligned Movement plays a serious role in resolving the Persian Gulf crisis. Our country's foreign minister added: We believe that despite the start of ground operations, diplomatic efforts must continue to prevent further killing and bloodshed. Mr. Velayati also described the activities of the multinational forces as going beyond the UN Security Council resolutions and causing extensive damage to the resources of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti nations.

According to the Central News Unit, Rajiv Gandhi said in response: We and the people of India are very sad about what is happening today in Iraq and Kuwait. We hope that Iraq's acceptance of a rapid and complete withdrawal and the multinational forces' self-restraint will prevent a great human tragedy. The head of India's Congress Party added: Iran and India, along with several other active members of the Nonaligned Movement, must continue with their efforts, because any success would mean preventing further destruction of the region's resources.

Velayati Assesses Meeting

LD2502195991 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent, in Tehran on 25 February—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Velayati, the foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] have ended their two-day session in Tehran. Please give your views on the results of the talks. What issues were discussed?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Tehran session was decided on during the Belgrade conference, and in fact, the four states—India, Yugoslavia, Cuba, and Iran—were mandated to visit several of the capitals in the region—initially Baghdad—to assess the latest political developments, talk with the authorities of the states concerned, and, on the basis of their assessments, reach a final conclusion and thus propose a NAM plan.

The session was held on schedule and despite the start of the ground offensive—during the interval between the Belgrade and Tehran meetings, the ground offensive began and conditions completely changed—the group decided to go to Baghdad and carry out its mission. The decision eventually reached, however, was to inform the Iraqi Government that such a mission was to be carried out by the delegation on Monday on behalf of the movement, and that we would like to talk to the Iraqi president. Iraq's answer revealed that the Iraqi president, for reasons arising from the current critical conditions of Iraq and the region, could not meet the delegation. Considering the critical conditions and knowing that without meeting the president and hearing the views of the main decisionmaking authority in Iraq, we realized that such a visit was not advisable. What we eventually decided was that we should wait until the Iraqi Government was ready to receive the delegation at an appropriate level. If we want to go to any other capital as well, we must first have Iraq's views.

[Correspondent] Mr. Velayati, considering that today's visit to Baghdad has been cancelled, what is your assessment of the future of the region? What kind of scenario do you see?

[Velayati] Unfortunately, the situation is most undesirable and the people of Iraq and the people of Kuwait are giving up more martyrs. The war has expanded, the people are being ruthlessly bombarded, and Muslim assets are being destroyed. In reality, we are faced with a very complex, difficult, and disastrous situation which was predictable before; that is, if Iraq continued to stay in Kuwait then we would reach the point that we have reached now. The expansionist and hegemonist forces, which were seeking a pretext for a presence in critical areas of the world, will exploit this opportunity and expand the war to consolidate the foundations of their own influence. Despite our president's very firm and constructive proposals for a just and honorable peace, the Iraqis did not give in to the proposals and now we have reached this point, which is most disappointing.

Regarding NAM, I must inform you that under the present conditions, compared with other international organizations—from the United Nations on down to the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]—it has a relatively good impetus. As you know, the UN Security Council held a session which ground to a halt within half

an hour—the United Nations and Security Council are practically paralyzed when it comes to serious action. Despite the efforts of Iran and Pakistan, the ICO failed to convene because of the opposition of a group of its member-states, especially some Arab states which have influence in the ICO. The only movement that has made any move—mainly with Iran's efforts and with the cooperation of the president of the session—and wanted to continue its efforts, despite the increased complexity of the situation, was the NAM.

Nevertheless, during the Tehran session, it was decided that we should once again hold talks in the very near future. It may be that the next session will also take place in Tehran, perhaps with more of NAM member states. We declare our readiness, whenever the Iraqi Government is ready to receive the NAM delegation—despite the increased complexity of the situation and many other problems—to go to Baghdad and follow the NAM mission in the scene of action.

[Correspondent] Mr. Velayati, in your remarks you referred to the peace plan. If the state of the ground offensive becomes more critical, will Iran continue to pursue its peace plans?

[Velayati] We will not hold back, under any circumstances, from our efforts to find a peaceful solution in this deplorable crisis and disastrous war. We will continue our efforts in any case. We believe that halting the damage at any point is appropriate; we can prevent the terrible waste of the people's assets and the pure lives of the innocent civilians—in Iraq as well as Kuwait. The war has expanded on the ground, and the task of mediation has become much more difficult, but we do not lose hope in any case.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

India Offers To Host 'Urgent' Meeting

BK2602033491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] India has offered to host an urgent meeting of the 16 nonaligned countries in New Delhi to work for an early restoration of peace in the Gulf. The Indian proposal was made by the visiting deputy minister for external affairs, Mr. Digvijay Singh, to the foreign ministers of Yugoslavia, Iran, and Cuba now meeting in Tehran. Mr. Singh told the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA that Yugoslavia, in consultation with other NAM [Nonaligned Movement] foreign ministers, will decide the date and venue of the meeting.

The former prime minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, held talks in Tehran with the Iranian foreign minister, Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, on the Gulf situation. He is also expected to meet President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Gandhi Meets With President

LD2602125391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received this morning Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, former prime minister and leader of the Congress Party of India.

Mr. Gandhi expressed his delight at meeting with the president of our country and praised the Islamic Republic as a country that plays a key role in the region and in world history. He said: We are deeply concerned about the situation in the Persian Gulf region and hope that through your efforts and the efforts of the rest of the member-countries of the Non-Aligned Movement, the war may end as soon as possible.

He also emphasized the need for the countries of the region to establish security and said he believes the presence of foreign forces undermines regional tranquillity and security. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi said he hopes that cooperation between India and Iran will expand.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked Mr. Rajiv Gandhi for his remarks and emphasized Iran's continuing endeavors to halt the war. Pointing to the miscalculations made by Iraqi leaders regarding recent issues and their delayed decisions on withdrawing from Kuwait, he said: During the stages when serious efforts were made to achieve results, opportunities were lost one after another, and at each juncture, the United States and the allied forces found an appropriate pretext to increase pressure and achieve their objectives until the situation reached this juncture.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized the necessity to increase efforts to end the war and said he believes that the essential problem to be faced after the war will be to preserve regional security without the presence of foreign forces. He stressed this point.

In other remarks, the president of our country noted the need to resolve the problems of Muslims in Kashmir and India and said he hopes that by resolving these problems, India may be able to cooperate seriously and actively with the world of Islam.

In conclusion, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized cooperation between Iran and India in all areas and said he hopes that these two great countries may be able to fulfill their role in Asia.

President Deplores Escalation of Gulf War

LD2502115791 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Excerpts] At a meeting with the Shiite and Sunni Friday imams of Khorasan Province this morning, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the role of the clerics as significant in terms of guiding the people, attracting them to the scene, and thwarting the propaganda plots of the enemies of the revolution. [passage omitted]

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: Due to the changes in global and regional conditions, the enemies of the revolution have in recent months made many confessions, questioning the support previously rendered to Saddam by the East and the West. Commenting on the escalation of the war in the region, the president added: The Islamic Republic of Iran regrets the state of war and ascribes the waging of such a war to the past actions of the governments involved in the war. [passage omitted]

Yazdi States 'Alien Forces' Must Leave Gulf

LD2502210791 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Mr. Mohammad Yazdi, chief of the judicial branch and member of the Supreme National Security Council, spoke this morning at a gathering of the judicial officials of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' offices from all over the country. He emphasized that in order to establish security in the region, there is no alternative to the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and the withdrawal of alien forces from the region.

He said: Global arrogance should avoid all thoughts of confronting Islam and should never think that it can confront Islam after more than 12 years since the victory of the Islamic revolution, a revolution that was achieved against all the odds in a turbulent world through divine grace and favor and the presence of the masses in all the various arenas of the Islamic revolution.

Mr. Yazdi emphasized the Islamic Republic's policy of adopting a neutral position on the Persian Gulf crisis, saying: Our overall policy has not changed at all, and government officials continue to stress that Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait and alien forces should withdraw from the region.

The chief of the judicial branch added: After the end of the war security will not be established in the region so long as the arrogant forces remain there; it is the countries of the Persian Gulf region that should safeguard the security of the region. Any security arrangements aimed at justifying the presence of aliens, especially the forces of arrogance, are unacceptable to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Another 60 War Refugees Arrive in Bakhtaran

LD2502101791 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Bakhtaran, Feb. 25, IRNA—60 more foreign nationals residing in Iraq arrived at the Khosrawi checkpoint in this western province bordering Iraq on Sunday. With the arrival of the new batch, the total number of the Persian Gulf war refugees arriving in Iran through the Khosrawi border crossing reached 9,517.

Delegation To Study Iraqi Refugee Exodus

LD2502140791 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Khorramshahr, Feb. 25, IRNA—A delegation consisting of representatives of international organizations and Iran's Red Crescent Society arrived in Khorramshahr in southern Iran to study ways of dealing with a possible exodus of Iraqi refugees to Iran.

In a session attended by several local officials, the delegation studied how to handle the affairs of refugees who may rush into Iran from Iraq as well as construction of camps to accomodate them. The governor of Khorramshahr briefed the visitors on the services rendered by the Islamic Republic to people fleeing to Iran from Iraq and occupied Kuwait via the southern border crossing of Shalamcheh.

The delegation also included the representatives of the international committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

While the delegates were inspecting various parts of Khorramshahr and Shalamcheh they clearly heard U.S.-led allied aiplanes bombing Iraq's southern cities.

Thick Smoke Covers Ilam, Khuzestan Provinces

LD2502114191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Thick smoke from the bombing and burning Kuwaiti oil wells and installations covers part of Iran in the Khuzestan region. According to an IRNA reporter, the black smoke which plunged the towns of Khorramshahr and Susangerd into darkness yesterday could again be seen this morning in the towns of Susangerd and Ahvaz, but the opacity is somewhat less.

Another report from Ilam states that thick black smoke now covers the towns of Ilam Province this morning. This mass of thick smoke, which is moving from southern Ilam Province and spreading north, covers a large part of the province during the last hour. The suns rays cannot penetrate it. According to the report this morning, the smoke mass also covers the skies over the towns of Ilam, Salehabad, Mehran, Dehloran 'Ivan, and Chowar.

Newspapers Criticize U.S.-Led Ground Offensive

LD2502102291 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA—Three Iranian dailies Monday labeled as unnecessary the U.S.-led allied forces' ground assault against Iraq and reiterated that the U.S. was after other goals under the guise of its efforts to make Iraqi withdraw from Kuwait.

The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said that all the existing evidences prove that the main problem and major concern of the U.S. and its allies is the massive

military capacity of Iraq which gives the Baghdad regime an aggressive nature. This capacity has been created by arms and munitions given to Iraq by the West and the East during its eight-year war with Iran to be used against the Islamic revolution and the Iranian nation.

On Washington's rejection of Moscow's peace initiative, the daily said that Moscow will not remain idle and will try through its more active presence to play a significant role in the politico-military balance of the region which is taking shape. By destroying Iraq's military capacity, Washington on the one hand wants to solve the future problems of the Zionist regime and on the other hand to annihilate Moscow's last base in the region by putting aside Saddam Husayn and overthrowing the present regime in Iraq.

The daily criticized Saddam for his efforts to portray himself as an anti-Zionist hero by his demagogic propaganda and said that even with this war he has rendered considerable services to the Zionist regime and the U.S. Undoubtedly the war has created a deep hatred against the U.S. in the Islamic world and if the Muslim nations act vigilantly and sincerely they can utilize the opportunity to force the aggressor NATO armies out of the region. It reiterated that Washington is after illegitimate interests in the region and that Muslim nations must counter these moves.

The Iraqi regime is guilty in this crisis. However, the U.S. has committed a greater crime under the pretext of countering Iraqi aggression. The daily stressed that Muslim nations must act responsibly to preserve the power of Islam and Muslims.

The English daily TEHRAN TIMES criticized the U.N. and the Security Council for falling short of reacting promptly to the illegitimate start of a ground offensive by the U.S.-led forces and said that this diminishes U.N.'s importance in the new world order which calls for fundamental changes in the U.N. Charter.

Referring to measures to end the war, it said that they will play a determining role in shaping the new world order and creation of legal, political and military systems in the future. "These efforts will surely prevent the military powers from consolidating the enormous power and potential they had quietly built up during the cold war era."

Meanwhile, KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said that if Mikhail Gorbachev had succeeded in bringing peace to the region, "he would have acquired an image as a peace-loving leader whereas that of George Bush would have been that of a warmonger." It added that the U.S. and its allies were after war not peace from the very beginning in order to "selfishly further" their own interests.

U.S. 'Deviance' From UN Resolutions Assailed

LD2502144391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1104 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Although all-out war between the multinational coalition and Iraqi forces is continuing for the second day, the severe news censorship and propaganda-psychological warfare by both sides has prevented the results of the military operations from becoming clear. The multinational forces' military commanders expressed satisfaction, in their first official reports, with the progress of the operations—described as minimal resistance from the Iraqi forces against their attack. Nevertheless, according to unofficial reports, the Western forces' progress on some operational axes has not been so easy as coalition commanders have claimed, and has, on some occasions, encountered strong resistance.

Coalition military source reports on the liberation of Kuwait city and al-Jahra' and their later denial, as well as U.S. commanders' recent admission that they have encountered strong resistance from Iraqi forces in some operational axes, paints a clearer picture of the facts about the war. Reports of extremely low casualties among coalition forces, even among paratroopers who landed behind Iraqi defensive lines armed with light weapons, do not conform to the bloody aspects of the war and cannot be placed in any context other than psychological warfare.

Coalition forces commanders' claims of rapid advances and negligible resistance by Iraqi forces have been subjected to various analyses. Some military analysts believe that the multinational forces' air strikes on Iraqi positions over the past month and cutting off Iraqi communications lines have seriously weakened the Iraqi soldiers' morale and this explains their lack of resistance. Other military analysts, considering the fact that the Iraqi Armed Forces copy Soviet military strategies, believe that in this war Iraq is following the deep defense strategy used by the Soviet Army in World War II. In this strategy the enemy forces are attacked when they are far from their supply lines. The multinational forces commanders' comments on the possibility of the war being stepped up over the next few days strenghtens this assumption, particularly since the coalition forces, as they claim, have broken Iraq's first line of defense and are now facing Iraq's elite Republican Guards.

In any case, reports indicate that the multinational forces are continuing their ground offensive on four axes. Their objective is to reach Kuwait City on two axes, from the south and east, and the other two axes are aimed at the towns of al-Nasiriyah and al-Samawah inside Iraq.

Although the multinational forces have thus far used the severed Iraqi forces' communications lines in Kuwait as a pretext for the attack on Iraqi soil, the geographic position of the town of al-Samawah, which is closer to

Baghdad than to the Kuwaiti border, puts a question mark on U.S. military aims in this war.

Informed military sources say that, although there is no doubt that U.S. aims go beyond the liberation of Kuwait, an accurate assessment of those aims is not possible at present, particularly since the U.S. military commanders have so far kept secret whether the ground operations will stop at the liberation of Kuwait or advance toward Baghdad. U.S. officials' remarks about their current war aims in the region clearly bring to light U.S. deviance from the bounds of the UN Security Council resolutions. Therefore they should be strongly opposed by the world, even U.S. allies. Not only does this defiance of the international consensus endanger the security of the region, it also sabotages the future international order in which the United Nations will play a key role.

Iraq To Release 400 More POW's

LD2502114591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Four hundred POW's who were listed as missing in action will soon be released and returned to the Islamic homeland, Hojjat-ol Eslam Abu-Turabi, representative of the vice regent of the jurisconsult in charge of the country's POW's, said during a session attended by freed POW's from west of Mazandaran Province. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Nationals Stage Pro-Kuwait Demonstration

BK2602013891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1808 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Karachi, Feb 25 (AFP)—About 50 Pakistanis who worked in Kuwait before the Iraqi invasion staged a rally Monday in support of the emirate's exiled rulers, witnesses said. "We want the restoration of Kuwait's independence and its legitimate government," they chanted, carrying pictures of the Kuwaiti royal family and condemning the Iraqi occupation.

More than 80,000 Pakistanis returned home from Kuwait after Iraqi forces occupied the country August 2. They have been facing financial hardship as they have found jobs scarce back home.

Police Break Up Afghan Student Demonstration

BK2602100391 Hong Kong AFP in English 0940 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Feb 26 (AFP)—Pakistani police used batons and tear gas to disrupt an Afghan refugee student rally here protesting the dispatch of a Moslem mujahidin contingent to Saudi Arabia, witnesses said Tuesday. Many were injured in the police action and in clashes that followed as the 1,000-strong crowd dispersed leaving some stone-throwing groups to fight with police for three hours, they said.

Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, head of the mujahidin government in exile, sent 300 resistance fighters to Saudi Arabia to join the U.S.-led allied forces there this month despite strong opposition in what his prime minister, Rasul Sayyaf, described as a personal decision.

Chanting slogans against Mr. Mojaddedi's decision, students from different Afghan refugee youth organizations paraded the streets here until the police action. Most of the demonstrators belonged to the Hezb-e Eslami, the fundamentalist Afghan resistance faction of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, resistance sources said. Mr. Hekmatyar, top Minister Burhanuddin Rabbani and Mr. Sayyaf have all disowned Mr. Mohaddedi's move. Mr. Rabbani said he opposed the "killing of our Iraqi brothers," while Mr. Hekmatyar said the Afghans sent to Saudi Arabia were not mujahidin.

The mujahidin are fighting to overthrow the Soviet-backed government in Kabul, enjoying support from the United States and Saudi Arabia.

Further on Visit of Saudi State Minister

Meets With President

LD2402160791 Riyadh SPA in English 1250 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 24, SPA—Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan met here today with Muhammed Ibrahim Mas'ud, the Saudi minister of state and member of the cabinet, who delivered to him a message from Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

During the hour long meeting with President Khan, Mas'ud was accompanied by Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Yusuf Mutabbaqani. The message is learnt to have focused on the ongoing Gulf crisis and conflict created by the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait and threats Saddam's forces posed along Saudi borders.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD2502040591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0320 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Islamabad, 24 Feb (SPA) [dateline as received]—Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, the Saudi minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers, left Islamabad last night after a two-day visit to Pakistan. During the visit, his excellency conveyed a message from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, to the Pakistani president.

Commentary Appreciates Free Saudi Oil Supply

BK2302120791 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Umar Latif commentary]

[Text] In the wake of war in the Gulf, Pakistan's balance of payment position has come under extreme pressure. On the one hand, the import cost of oil has gone steeply up; and on the other, Pakistan's exports and remittances have suffered decline. Before the Gulf war, import cost of oil was about $1.2 billion per annum; it is estimated to go over $2 billion at present price tag. Pakistan's average price of oil purchase stood at $26.29 dollars a barrel for the period of July-December 1990. By the current year 1991, according to an estimate drawn, the oil price is likely to be about $24 a barrel. Obviously, with lower than expected growth in exports and higher than estimated increase in import costs the balance of payment position is to (?aggravate).

Since economic assistance from the United States has been disrupted, current balance [of payment] position of Pakistan has thus come under serious strains. In this tight situation Saudi Arabia has come to this country's assistance and her supplies of oil at 50,000 barrels daily has been announced as gift for three months: January to March 1991. For the period of 90 days, such free oil supplies will add up to 4.5 million barrels. At an estimated average cost of $24 a barrel, the assistance from Saudi Arabia to Pakistan would work out at about $108 million. It is a generous help being extended to Pakistan by Saudi Arabia which herself is fighting a war. At present, the Gulf war cost is assessed at $750 million a day. In this, Saudi Arabia is contributing [words indistinct]. Despite its hard-pressed position and war at its borders, the great gesture of assistance offered by Saudi Arabia in supplying 4.5 million barrels of oil free of cost to Pakistan [word indistinct] exceptional.

In difficult days of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia has always given liberal assistance. Keeping this in view, Pakistan also sided in hour of need with Saudi Arabia. The government of Pakistan has taken such a stand staunchly right from the onslaught of disturbances in the Gulf. Despite certain problems, the stand has not been changed and a consistent position has been maintained. On principles no compromise can be done. Relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia has been cordial and will continue to be so always. No issues emerging from outside factors can (?trace) upon the strong binding between the two brotherly nations. Their unity is exemplary, and should serve as a sound example for all the members of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to forge and follow like this. Unless the ummah gets united, it cannot have peace, progress and prosperity. Pakistan has staunchly supported the firm stand taken by Saudi Arabia against invasion and annexation of Kuwait by Iraq. Likewise, Pakistan has persistently demanded cessation of hostilities and withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and allied forces from the region.

By [word indistinct] of forces from countries of the ICO, a helpful occasion of restoration of peace in the Gulf could be created. Attack and annexation of a small country by its bigger and stronger neighbor could lead to [word indistinct] and anarchy in the world. Civilized behavior demands sorting out differences through negotiations and arbitration rather than armed action. Pakistan highly appreciates the friendly gesture of Saudi Arabia in providing 50,000 barrels of oil a day free of cost for three months. It will help to ease the difficult balance of payment position Pakistan is faced with these days. In the meantime, for self-reliance Pakistan needs to expand her export and contain her import as much as possible.

Iranian Commerce Minister Meets With Counterpart

BK2502103091 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] A six-member Iranian trade delegation led by the commerce minister, 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji, called on the federal commerce minister, Malik Naim Khan, in Islamabad yesterday to consider ways to increase economic cooperation between the two countries. The Pakistani minister emphasized the exchanging of trade delegations, the establishment of a bureau to promote trade, and the holding of trade fairs. The Iranian commerce minister expressed his desire to promote economic relations between the two countries.

Another Iranian delegation led by the deputy minister for roads and transport, Mohammad Baqer Bahrami, called on the railway and communication secretaries in Islamabad yesterday. The Iranian delegation urged Pakistan to help construct a railway line between Kerman and Zahedan. Pakistan agreed to assist with all possible help. Both sides exchanged views on the construction of the RCD [Regional Cooperation for Development] highway between Quetta and Taftan.

Bhutto's Alliance Boycotts Assembly Session

BK2502163091 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Excerpt] The National Assembly session was adjourned this afternoon after a brief sitting to give the ruling party time to persuade the opposition People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] members to end their boycott of the session. The PDA announced the boycott as a protest against, what they called, the treatment meted out to them. In their two-hour discussions, federal ministers—Chaudhary Shujat Hussain and Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan—tried to persuade the PDA to return to the house. The session was adjourned after this discussion to give the two sides more time to reach a satisfactory understanding on this issue. After the discussion, National Assembly Speaker Gauhar Ayub Khan praised both the

ruling and opposition parties for their desire to maintain a cordial atmosphere inside the house to continue the proceedings. He said it is necessary to adjourn the house session till tomorrow afternoon to provide time for talks on certain demands of the PDA. He expressed satisfaction at today's discussion and added that further negotiations will be held tomorrow.

The PDA's decision to boycott the house session was announced by Syed Iftekhar Hussain Gilani soon after the break for afternoon prayer and before walking out of the house in protest against, what he called, victimization of the opposition members in the national and provincial assemblies, who, he added, were being treated as ordinary criminals. Before the walkout, six PDA members of National Assembly wanted to move an identical privilege motion on a statement by Sindh chief minister, in which he had described a member, Asif Ali Zardari [Benazir Bhutto's husband], as the biggest robber of Sindh. [passage omitted]